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PM ASSESSING NORTHERN STRENGTH, PG 10

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AUGUST 20, 2

Celebrity Buzz

Colin adds another Farrell to the fam?

pg 59

Arrest made after gun lands in truck

CRIME A truck driver picked up some unexpected cargo after a gun was tossed during a foot pursuit across Highway 401 Tuesday evening.

Guns and gangs officers were at a Falstaff Avenue apartment complex near Jane Street and Highway 401 investigating a man for drug offences at about 6 p.m., when he started running away, police said.

The uniformed officers took chase as the suspect jumped a fence and ran across the eastbound and westbound lanes of Highway 401.

As the suspect fled, officers reported seeing him toss a handgun onto a westbound passing dump truck.

Cosmo James, 24, of Toronto was arrested after the chase.

The truck, that was determined to be from Woodbridge, was located and police recovered a loaded 9 mm semi-automatic handgun.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Metro Homes pg 29

Bringing the country home

Food pg 37

Gobble this croquettes and cobbler

100m **Silver surprise**

MARK DADSWELL/GETTY IMAGES

Whitby resident Priscilla Lopes-Schliep celebrates winning the silver medal in the women's 100 metres hurdles final during Day 5 of the 12th IAAF World Athletics Championships at the Olympic Stadium yesterday in Berlin, Germany. More on the win, page 26.

Alarm over alert

B.C. RCMP under fire following death of 12-year-old autistic kid

Amber Alerts must be protected from overuse and the RCMP's decision not to issue the high-profile public plea after a 12-year-old autistic boy went missing was the right one, says a proponent of the program.

John Fulton, whose beaming smile graces several photos released by his family, was found slain on Monday evening in a neighbour's home after he vanished from the steps of his Grand Forks, B.C., townhouse complex two days earlier.

Fulton's family became the latest anguished Canadian family to say police should have used an Amber Alert to publicize their child's disappearance.

John Fulton

Fulton's autism meant he couldn't roam far from the "comfort zone" of the subdivision where he lived, his family said.

Tori Stafford

Police have defended their decision not to use the Amber Alert system in Fulton's case, saying it didn't meet the requirements.

"We do not know if this could have saved Johnny's life, nor do we wish to speculate," said the statement.

"However, we feel strongly that any child with autism should automatically qualify as an Amber Alert."

Police in Woodstock faced the same scrutiny for not issuing an Amber Alert after the disappearance of eight-year-old Tori Stafford earlier this year.

The Ontario Provincial Police are currently co-ordinating a review of the province's Amber Alert program. The review will be completed by the fall.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Survivor winner in jail after interviews

TAX EVASION Survivor winner Richard Hatch's sister said yesterday that she thinks her brother was sent back to jail for giving an interview and a radio station said Hatch called in twice without the station first getting the required permission from the federal Bureau of Prisons.

Hatch had been serving the remainder of his prison term for tax evasion on home confinement in Newport. He was taken into custody and jailed Tuesday afternoon, just hours after interviews aired on WPRO-AM, NBC's Today show and a WJAR-TV newscast.

In the interviews, Hatch accused the prosecutor of misconduct and said the judge in the case discriminated against him because he was gay.

Hatch's sister told Today yesterday that she heard a sheriff's deputy who came to bring her brother to the Barnstable County Jail in Massachusetts say that Hatch was being jailed because "he did an interview."

The Bureau of Prisons would not comment on Hatch's case.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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WIND

Woman injured in alleged crack pipe fight
A woman is in hospital after being stabbed multiple times with what may have been a crack pipe in Carleton Village yesterday morning. Police are hoping security footage will help them identify a woman of about 20, who is believed to have got into a fight with the victim. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

No apology for Kurdish superstar

Provincial police Commissioner Julian Fantino has no immediate plans to apologize to Kurdish singer Sivan Perwer after he was handcuffed during a high-risk takedown on Highway 427 Sunday. The Kurdish community is hoping for a formal apology from the OPP, however Fantino "supports the actions of the officers," OPP Inspector Dave Ross told the Toronto Star. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
2009 Festival of Media Awards

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Tomorrow's Metro

Music Saskatchewan artist Shiloh talks to Metro about her new album Picture Imperfect.

metronews.ca

WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty defends the controversial decision to harmonize sales taxes at **metronews.ca/canada**

Lotteries

Results not available at time of printing

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CNE Surf's Up

ANDREW WHAMSON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Nick Nguyen professional bodyboarder and surfer shows off his skills on the Flowrider Mobile Wave as part of a preview of the CNE's many attractions. The mobile wave machine shoots out 15,000 gallons of water a minute. You too can try out your surfing skills for $20 for a 30 minute session. The CNE opens tomorrow with admission at just $1.75

Tradition or science?

Muslims debate official start of Ramadan

It is known as the pre-Ramadan headache. But, for Muslims in Toronto, the ailment has nothing to do with anxiety around fasting from sunrise to sunset in the coming days.

Instead, it is caused by confusion that every year precedes the month of fasting, prayer and self-reflection.

Simply trying to answer the question: When does the month officially start?

"It's a not an easy question to answer," said Taha Ghayyur, the coordinator of the Muslim information portal Torontomuslims.com, which attempts to sort out the messy details for community members on its website.

"This year it is pretty much between Friday or Saturday … and for some in Toronto, it could also be Sunday," he said.

Traditionally, Muslims in Toronto have literally looked to the skies on the eve of Ramadan — the month the Quran was revealed — for signs of the new moon to determine when the holy month begins. A second group, mostly from the Arab world, used global moon sighting, and start fasting when Muslims in Saudi Arabia do.

But in recent years, scholars in North America introduced a new idea to use scientific astronomical calculations to predetermine the first day of Ramadan. When introduced in 2006 by the Fiqh Council of North America, an organization that makes legal opinions on Islam, it was meant to unify the community.

Instead, it ended up doing the opposite.

"It has added to the confusion," said Ghayyur. "Since most people see all three as Islamically correct, now people have too many options in a way."

Many in the community say within the issue of moon sighting is a deeper debate. A debate between the those trying to find ways to modernize Islamic traditions within the bounds of Islam, and those struggling to hold fast on to tradition.

"It's not an easy question to answer." Taha Ghayyur, Torontomuslims.com

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Wasps: Wild, angry, scary pests

NATURE Haley Cullingham was at work in her home office, tapping away at her keyboard while the afternoon sun backstroked through an open window.

In mere moments, her life would be irrevocably changed — for an entire week.

She heard a faint buzzing. It was coming from inside the room. Then, a tingling on her hand. She swiped at the mighty wasp. It countered, several centimetres of pure, winged fury.

"It stung me right on the tip of my index finger," said Cullingham, a 23-year-old student and professional blogger. "It hurt a lot, and it was really itchy for like a week."

She survived the incident, but her assignment was not so lucky. "I basically started typing with one hand and cooled my finger on a frozen beer stein. It was not a productive workday, needless to say."

Stories like Cullingham's are becoming increasingly common in Toronto, as pest control experts across the city report a massive surge in the wasp population (think yellow jackets, not Leasiders). Exterminators contacted by the Toronto Star reported a 50 per cent increase in wasp-related calls this summer over previous years. The increase is attributed to a mild winter, which allows more queens to survive in their nests, and the city-wide buffet also known as the civic workers' strike. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

CITY Canada's two largest cities are ranked about midway in a survey of the world's most expensive places to live but Montreal slightly beat Toronto with the 12th best purchasing power, says a UBS survey. Toronto and Montreal were the 31st and 32nd most expensive cities. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Cops lay 90 charges in drug bust

Twelve people face 90 charges after an alleged drug dealing operation was busted by Durham region police. The arrests capped a three-month investigation dubbed Project Isis which began in Durham Region and expanded into the Toronto area. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Reward for tips in abused pooch case now $2,500

NEGLECT The outpouring of concern from the public for a pooch dubbed "Phoenix," found bloody and abandoned in a Clarington backyard on Sunday, has been overwhelming for the Durham Humane Society.

"There's been a tremendous amount of people very upset and concerned about Phoenix's condition," said animal cruelty investigator Debby Houghton.

"There's been a tremendous amount of people very upset..." Debby Houghton

The reward of $1,500 for information leading to the conviction of the owner of the neglected pooch picked up by animal control officers has grown to $2,500, thanks to donors disgusted by what humane society officials are calling one of the worst cases of animal cruelty they have seen. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Commission takes on housing

Latest report focuses on human rights of rental discrimination

Subtle discrimination in Ontario's rental sector over race, age or social standing will be among the problems targeted in a new housing policy this fall from the Ontario Human Rights Commission, the chief commissioner said yesterday.

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Barbara Hall, speaking at a press conference in this April file photo, says it's the first time anyone has focused on the human rights component of rental housing.

In its first annual report released since widening its mandate to focus on broader societal issues rather than just individual complaints, the commission found the "issue of discrimination in housing kept coming up," said Barbara Hall.

It was the first time anyone has focused on the human rights component of rental housing, Hall said, adding the problems were provincewide.

The commission plans to release a new housing policy in early October which can be used to guide landlords and tenants alike.

"There may be some tools for people who face discrimination in housing to get rid of barriers using the human rights process," said Hall.

Housing discrimination amid a tough economy is an issue of increasing concern for many.

"The report is showing the pain is not being shared equally. Some groups are bearing a bigger burden," said Michael Shapcott, director of affordable housing at the Wellesley Institute, an independent policy think tank.

Shapcott said seniors, people of colour and those with physical and mental health issues find it hardest to secure a decent place to live. "It's a real wake-up call for people in Ontario," said Shapcott. "Housing is absolutely a necessity in terms of human health, it's difficult if not impossible to hold a job if you don't have a home."

At least one housing association warned the commission has to guard against compromising the rights of one group while trying to protect another. "It's really based on one's perspective," said Sharad Kerur, executive director of the Ontario Non-Profit Housing Association. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

TRIAL A 14-year veteran Peel police officer, accused of stealing fake cocaine from a botched RCMP drug delivery, insists he was following orders when he took the substance home. Const. Sheldon Cook, 40, says his immediate bosses knew he took 15 dummy bricks home with him when he discovered the packages in the trunk of his police cruiser after his shift ended in the early hours of Nov. 17, 2005. "Policing is like a paramilitary organization," Cook testified yesterday at his Brampton trial. "When you're given a direct order by a ranking officer, you don't ask why. You just do." Cook has denied stealing the product, which he says he knew was fake. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

St. Paul's riding heading to the polls again

BYELECTION Voters in the key Toronto riding of St. Paul's will be heading to the polls Sept. 17.

The byelection will fill the provincial seat vacated in June by former cabinet minister Michael Bryant, who held the riding for a decade.

It will be the first time voters have gone to the polls since McGuinty's government unveiled its controversial plan to merge the eight per cent provincial sales tax with the five per cent federal GST.

Dr. Eric Hoskins, who was an adviser to former federal cabinet minister Lloyd Axworthy, will run on the Liberal ticket. Toronto columnist Sue-Ann Levy is expected to represent the Progressive Conservatives, while the NDP are expected to choose their candidate Sept. 9. Realtor and community activist Chris Chopik will represent the Green Party.

Speculation has been swirling McGuinty delayed the vote to give his party the chance to find a candidate who can fill Bryant's shoes. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Beating probed as home invasion: Police

The severe beating of a man at his Weston home early yesterday morning is being investigated as a home invasion, police say. Police found the 45-year-old victim bleeding from his head after he was attacked at his home near Weston Road and Lawrence Avenue West. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Protest against De Beers

DEMONSTRATION Nathan Tomagatick grew up in his great-grandmother's crowded house in Attawapiskat, Ont., where bugs and rats would occasionally pay his bed a visit.

Things got so bad two months ago, he and his mother, Maria, who had lived in that home all 30 years of her life, moved to Timmins.

Yesterday, the Tomagaticks joined 48 other community members in a protest outside the De Beers Canada office in Toronto. The demonstrators expressed their mounting frustration over what they believe to be an unequal distribution of profit generated from the company's diamond mine on traditional Attawapiskat lands.

"We (have) no nice house ... there are lots of mice and holes," said Nathan, 10, as he stood outside the building with a cardboard sign.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DANIELE LEONG/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Nathan Tomagatick participated in a demonstration at De Beer's Canada head office in Toronto. The protesters expressed frustration over what they believe is an unequal distribution of profit from diamond mining on native land.

Back-to-school blues

Parents turning to food banks for kids' backpacks

As students sharpen their pencils for another school year, more families are relying on food banks to fill not only their children's lunch boxes, but their backpacks as well.

Low-income families struggling to pay for rent and food are finding it difficult to manage the extra expense of the new school supplies that every returning student craves, says Katharine Schmidt, executive director at Food Banks Canada.

"Even $10 or $15 (in savings) can make a significant difference to those who are struggling with limited incomes."

About half of the 700,000 families who use food banks have school-age children, Schmidt says.

In the York region north of Toronto, food banks are quickly running out of school supplies. They had planned to hand over 530 school bags this year, but with two weeks left to go before classes begin, they have already given out 519.

"The use of food banks has gone up and now the demand for backpacks is growing."
Joan Stonehocker, York Region Food Network

"The use of food banks has gone up and now the demand for backpacks is growing," says York Region Food Network executive director Joan Stonehocker.

The region has almost one million residents, and 13 per cent of them fall below the poverty line, but food banks didn't expect the high demand for school supplies this year.

"I don't know what we are going to do in the next weeks," says Stonehocker.

In Montreal, NDG Food Bank executive director Fiona Keats has been seeing more newcomers from Latin America looking for help.

"We are seeing more families having to choose between buying food and getting school supplies," she says.

School supplies can cost up to $100 per student, she says.

That's on top of other fees that schools charge at the start of the year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

HEALTH Codeine is not a safe pain medication for kids with sleep apnea who have been sent home after having their tonsils out, warns a report by Canadian researchers in the New England Journal of Medicine. The researchers, headed by an official at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, discovered the risk the narcotic poses to small children after a two-year-old boy died following the surgery.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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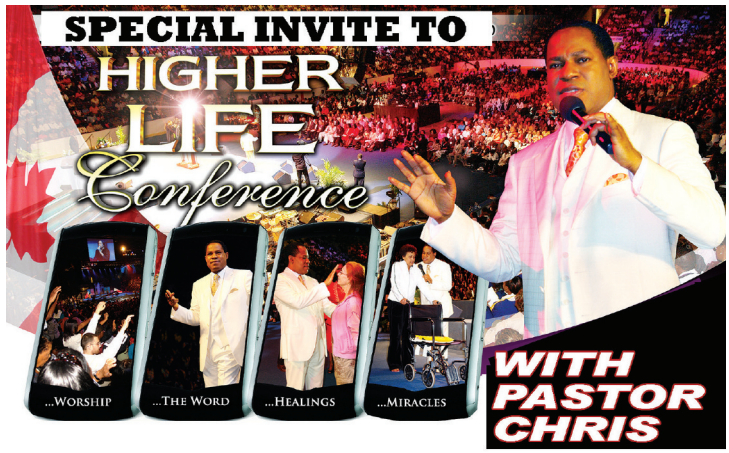

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Shops at Don Mills
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Catholic school trustees can't meet at headquarters

Toronto's Catholic trustees have been given the boot by provincial supervisor Norbert Hartmann, who says they can't hold a meeting at board headquarters as planned. Hartmann was sent in by the province last year to run the Toronto Catholic District School board after trustees failed to balance the budget. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Voltage scare cost Hydro $14.4M

UTILITIES Toronto Hydro's city-wide inspections and repairs in the wake of last winter's stray-voltage scare cost the company $14.4 million — and the utility wants customers to foot part of the tab. The company has asked the Ontario Energy Board for permission to charge every residential customer an extra 68 cents per month this year to help offset the spike, spokeswoman Tanya Bruckmueller said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Art meets commerce on Queen West

It is small and a bit confusing at first glance, but for contemporary Canadian artists it could become one of the most affordable and simple ways to gain exposure.

"There is a bit of hesitation about whether it is a functioning bank machine, because it is showing contemporary art," said Kelly McCray, co-director of the Edward Day Gallery and creator of the Bank on Art project, www.bankonart.net.

The project is an ATM machine that features flashing images of art on the same screen used for transactions, before and after you take out cash and any time the machine is not in use.

It was launched Aug. 6 as part of an exhibition at the gallery entitled Foreign Legionnaires, Art Collectives At Work, including the FASTWÜRMS collective and Team Macho.

> **"The arts need support, especially in this time."**
> Kelly McCray

The machine, in front of the gallery at 952 Queen St. W., is fitted with a USB port and can showcase up to six images.

Right now it shows six artists a day, on a five second rotation, with the intent to slow it down to six artists a week. Interested artists can go to www.bankonart.net for submission guidelines.

McCray sees it as a bit of affordable exposure for an increasingly strapped art community.

"The arts need support, especially in this time. We are the first to lose out. It is a precarious situation right now."

Today, McCray will meet with managers at the Gladstone Hotel to discuss setting up a second machine and has his sights set on locations in Yorkville.

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kelly McCray of the Edward Day Gallery stands beside the bank machine that displays artwork.

He does not charge the artists, who are not paid but receive a profile on www.bankonart.net and can post links to their work.

It was a collaborative effort. The website was created by artist Walter Willems, through his company Simulated Flavour.

McCray said he intends to purchase the machine and expects it will cost between $5,000 to $6,000. He said fees from the machine will eventually generate about $200 a month, which will be used to maintain the website.

"I could see this working for music, for actors, I could see this working for literature, depending. It can go in a lot of directions."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Increasing diesel trains cited as health risk

TRANSIT Boosting diesel traffic by as many as 400 trains a day on GO Transit's Georgetown line will put the health of nearby residents at risk, Toronto's medical officer of health has told Ontario's environment minister.

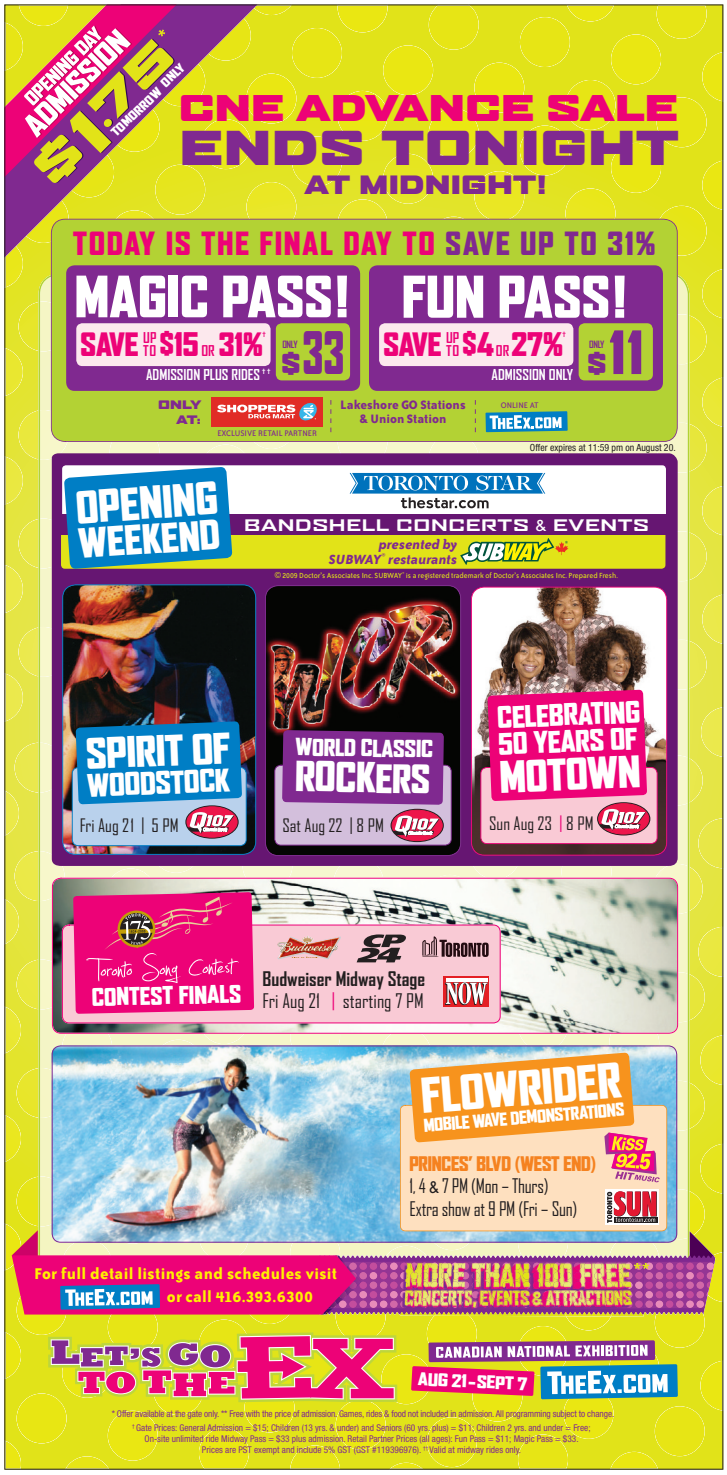
In one of his strongest stated positions on the issue so far, Dr. David McKeown wrote to John Gerretson, voicing his objections to a Metrolinx plan to use diesel locomotives to expand GO service and provide a new rail link to Pearson Airport.

McKeown wants to see the expansion, planned for 2015, proceed only as an electrified service. Metrolinx launched a study this summer on converting the line system to electric power, but anticipates the change is at least 15 years away. McKeown said there is increasing evidence that diesel exhaust is associated with lung cancer, and using diesels will result in "increased air pollution and health risk in adjacent communities."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Traffic increase

- The Metrolinx proposal would see about 250 to 450 more trains per day using the Georgetown corridor.



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Man faces 60 charges over sex assaults on kids

A 19-year-old Manitoba man faces 60 charges after an investigation into a complaint about sexual assaults on children. Police say the 11 alleged victims are all boys between eight and 14. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Jones declared bankrupt

Accused Ponzi scammer Earl Jones has been declared personally bankrupt by a Quebec court. He is accused of running a pyramid scheme in which more than 100 clients were bilked out of up to $50 million. Bankruptcy proceedings have so far turned up: three heavily mortgaged condos, two cars, some furniture, and one golf bag. THE CANADIAN PRESS

In the air ... and under the sea

PM's Far North adventure

Stephen Harper took to the air and sea — even venturing below the waves — as Canada flexed its military muscle in the Far North yesterday.

The prime minister handled the controls of a Sea King helicopter for part of the flight from Iqaluit to the frigate HMCS Toronto to observe a military exercise off Baffin Island.

He was strapped in, his feet hanging over the side of the open door, as the chopper landed on the ship.

Harper later boarded the submarine HMCS Corner Brook and dipped below the frigid waters in an anti-submarine exercise.

It was all part of the Conservative government's attempt to trumpet Canada's sovereignty in the North.

"The work you are doing here to protect our sovereignty has never been so important."
Stephen Harper

Harper told Toronto's crew protecting the borders is the "first and foremost responsibility of a national government."

"With other countries probing our north by sea and in the air, the work you are doing here to protect our sovereignty has never been so important."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, sitting in the doorway of a Sea King helicopter, waves as he flies to HMCS Toronto in Frobisher Bay, Nunavut, yesterday. He's on a five-day Arctic trip.

The doctor is in ... for $518 an hour

Flu Outbreak

TREATMENT Alberta is considering paying some doctors up to $518 an hour to treat patients during a serious pandemic of the H1N1 virus, also known as swine flu.

The overnight pay rate is part of a proposal being worked on by the province and the Alberta Medical Association.

Doctors who worked evenings during a serious pandemic would be paid $403 an hour and weekday rates would be $259 an hour. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Employee Price Adjustment	$2,235
Delivery Allowance	$1,000
Total Price Adjustment	**$3,235**

Your Employee Price
$27,264*
Offer excludes freight

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Hotel clerk falls prey to scam, reveals guests' credit card numbers

A Kindersley, Sask., hotel clerk has fallen prey to a telephone scam in which he gave hotel guests' credit card numbers to a con artist posing as a member of the hotel's technical support staff. RCMP have not named the hotel or said how many credit card numbers were involved. THE CANADIAN PRESS

RCMP defend search for boy

Slain child's family criticizes Mounties for not issuing Amber Alert

The RCMP are defending their search for a slain 12-year-old autistic boy in southern British Columbia, after the boy's family criticized the force for not doing enough once they learned he was missing.

John Fulton's body was found on Monday, two days after he was reported missing from his home in Grand Forks, although the Mounties haven't said how he died.

Kimberly Noyes, who police have said lives where the body was found, has been arrested and is still in custody.

Noyes, 42, has not yet been charged.

Fulton's family released a statement to the media that criticized the RCMP for not issuing an Amber Alert after he was reported missing.

"We do not know if this (an Amber Alert) could have saved Johnny's life, nor do we wish to speculate. However, we feel strongly that any child with autism should automatically qualify as an Amber Alert," said the statement.

NEIL GREEN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grand Forks RCMP officers stand in the backyard of Kimberly Noyes home in Grand Forks, B.C., on Tuesday. The body of 12-year-old John Fulton was discovered in the home on Monday.

The Mounties say the case didn't meet the requirements for an Amber Alert because there was no indication of an abduction and no suspect to warn the public about.

Cpl. Dan Moskaluk said yesterday the RCMP commenced a ground search with dogs and aircraft Saturday night — Fulton was reported missing at 8 p.m. — and added search-and-rescue personnel on Sunday.

Such intensive initial searches aren't usually done in missing-persons cases, he said, adding posters of Fulton were distributed within 12 hours of his reported disappearance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Social networking sites fuel fake Amber Alerts

HOAXES Bogus Amber Alerts have been circulating via email and text messages for years, says the Ontario Provincial Police's co-ordinator for Ontario Amber Alert, but in the past year, the hoax has gone viral courtesy of social networking sites.

The phenomenon began in the United States. By July, it had reached the GTA.

Many of the messages encourage users to tell their friends to copy and paste the message onto their own account.

Last week, a GTA resident contacted Bill Lee to see if an Oshawa alert was real.

"At this point, it isn't a huge deal in Canada (because) our numbers are small and it's easier to do a Google search of your local media to see if it's real," said Lee.

The problem, said Terry Smith, assistant director of Child Find Ontario, is there is the potential for a "cry wolf" effect. If people see the fake ones often enough, they might just ignore a real alert one day.

"The fastest and easiest way to tell if it's real? Call us," said Smith.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Online trust

- According to researcher James Norrie, an associate dean at Ryerson University, people are more likely to trust something if it is online, a result of 20-somethings' mistrust of institutionalized media and the explosion of social networking.

News in brief

VISAS A new policy imposing visa requirements on people travelling from the Czech Republic has proven so effective that Canadian officials say they are no longer speaking with Czech authorities about reversing the policy. The number of refugee claims from Czech citizens was reduced to just three in the 30 days since July 16. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Information night: Thursday, August 20, 2009, 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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Mining and climate change
A survey by the David Suzuki Foundation suggests that nearly half the people in mining believe that climate change is already affecting their operations, but the report also says employees in the field are much more likely to hold that belief than executives in head offices. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Inflation rate drops again

Economists say there's little concern about deflation in Canada

Canada's annual inflation rate slid to the lowest level in 56 years last month, as overall prices fell 0.9 per cent from where they stood last July.

It was the second straight month that Canada's inflation rate has dipped into negative territory, but unlike in June, when it decreased 0.3 per cent, the unusual phenomenon was more widespread this time.

In July, prices fell on an annual basis and on a month-to-month basis, dipping 0.3 per cent from June, with eight provinces recording a negative inflation rate.

Still, economists say there is little concern that deflation — a broadbased and persistent decline in prices that could exact further damage to the economy — is setting in Canada, as it did in Japan during the 1990s.

That's because only three of the major components tracked by Statistics Canada are experiencing de-inflation, and most of that is based on falling gasoline prices.

In July, consumers paid 4.1 per cent less at the pump than they did the previous month, and 28.3 per cent less than they did last July.

But since the run-up in oil prices stalled last July at $147 US a barrel before beginning a downward spiral, the influence of gas prices on inflation is due to reverse next month, which could see inflation again rising.

Statistics Canada also pointed out that excluding the energy component, inflation remains a healthy 1.8 per cent in Canada. Core inflation is also close to where the Bank of Canada would like it, at 1.8 per cent, only slightly below the desired two-per-cent target.

Still, Canadians were seeing many bargains when they went shopping last month. Besides lower pump prices, the cost of purchasing a car was 4.3 per cent lower than last year, shelter prices fell two per cent, mortgage interest costs were 0.1 per cent lower, and clothing and footwear cost 2.1 per cent less than last July.

The key contributor to inflationary pressure continued to be food prices, which were five per cent higher in July on an annual basis. But that was better than the 5.5 per cent increase recorded in June.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Provinces

- The annual inflation rate was a negative 0.9 per cent in July, says Statistics Canada. Here's what happened in the provinces and territories. (Previous month in brackets):
- Newfoundland and Labrador -0.9 (0.3)
- Prince Edward Island -1.3 (-1.1)
- Nova Scotia -1.0 (-1.1)
- New Brunswick -0.4 (0.0)
- Quebec -0.3 (0.2)
- **Ontario -1.2 (0.0)**
- Manitoba 0.0 (0.6)
- Saskatchewan 0.9 (1.0)
- Alberta -1.5 (-1.6)
- British Columbia -1.6 (-0.7)
- Whitehorse, Yukon -0.8 (0.4)
- Yellowknife, N.W.T. -0.1 (0.3)
- Iqaluit, Nunavut 1.5 (3.0)

Major cities

- Stats Canada also released inflation rates for major cities, but cautioned that figures may fluctuate widely because they are based on small statistical samples. (Previous month in brackets):
- St. John's, N.L., -0.4 (0.9)
- Halifax, -0.7 (-0.8)
- Saint John, N.B., -0.4 (0.1)
- Montreal, -0.1 (0.4)
- Ottawa, -1.0 (0.2)
- **Toronto, -1.1 (0.2)**
- Thunder Bay, -1.6 (0.0)
- Winnipeg, 0.0 (0.6)
- Edmonton, -1.5 (-1.2)
- Calgary, -1.1 (-1.5)
- Vancouver, -1.6 (-0.5)

TONY BOCK / TORONTO STAR

Hyundai Canada president and CEO Steve Kelleher announced his company's Clean Air Commitment by dumping an old Dodge Shadow into a dumpster yesterday.

Cash for clunkers, Hyundai-style

AUTO As Canada evaluates the effectiveness of its vehicle scrappage program in light of the extraordinary success of a more robust program in the U.S., one company is taking the matter into its own hands.

Hyundai Canada said yesterday it will offer between $500 and $1,000 in savings, depending on the vehicle, as an incentive for consumers to scrap old cars for new, fuel-efficient Hyundais.

The incentive is the first of its kind to be offered by an individual company in Canada, and Hyundai said it will "top up" incentives offered under the federal government's existing Retire Your Ride program. Hyundai Canada president and CEO Steve Kelleher touted the environmental benefits of the program over its ability to generate sales. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

ISOTOPES Federal officials will hold an emergency meeting Friday to discuss the isotope crisis. Liberal MPs requested the meeting, which will involve discussions with nuclear medicine specialists and health ministers. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Canada & New England $537
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Aveo 5-door LS model shown with PG9 and UE1††

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FIVE-STAR SAFETY RATING◇

Malibu LTZ shown.††

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Cobalt SS Coupe model shown with 29U††

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FIVE-STAR SAFETY RATING◇

Silverado Ext. Cab with PCX shown††

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Offer applies to current owners/lessees of any GM vehicle; excluding 2008MY and prior vehicles and Medium Duty Truck. Vehicle must have been registered and insured in customer's name for previous consecutive 6 months. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ♥Offer applies to the cash purchase of 2009 Chevrolet (Aveo LT 5-door or Sedan 1SH Cobalt LT Coupe or Sedan 1SH Malibu LS Sedan 1SR Silverado Ext. Cab 4WD 1SF) new or demonstrator model. Cash purchase price reflects discounts or other incentives that are only available when consumers opt for a cash purchase offer. By selecting lease or finance offers consumers are foregoing such discounts and incentives and may pay more than the cash purchase price. Offer may change or be withdrawn at any time without notice. Dealer may sell for less. ▾Offer available to current owners/lessees of any GM vehicle; excluding 2008MY and prior vehicles and Medium Duty Truck. Vehicle must have been registered and insured in customer's name for previous consecutive 6 months. Conditions and limitations apply. See dealer for details. ◦Fuel consumption ratings based on Natural Resources Canada's (NRCan) 2009 test methods and data for 2009 models. Your actual fuel consumption will vary depending on how you drive and maintain your vehicle, driving conditions and optional equipment or accessories installed. Use for comparison purposes only. Refer to the EnerGuide information found on the window sticker for vehicles you are considering. For more information, visit oee.nrcan.gc.ca/fcr. ◇5 STAR SAFETY RATING: Government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program. For more information on safety ratings, go to www.safercar.gov. 2009 Chevrolet Silverado and 2009 Chevrolet Malibu received both a 5-star Rating for the driver and front passenger in the Frontal Crash Test and for Front and Rear Seat Occupants in the Side-Impact Crash Test. 2009 Chevrolet Aveo5 received a 5-star rating for driver and front passenger in the frontal crash test. †† Chevrolet Aveo5 LS with PG9 and UE1, MSRP $14,720. Chevrolet Cobalt SS Coupe with 29U, MSRP $25,825. Chevrolet Silverado Ext. Cab with PCX, MSRP $28,950. ∞ OnStar® services require vehicle electrical system (including battery), wireless service and GPS satellite signals to be available and operating for features to function properly. Subscription Service Agreement required. 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Councillor votes down own plastic bag proposal

Dawson Creek, B.C. Coun. Terry McFadyen had requested city administration to develop a plan to rid the city of plastic bags, but voted it down when he received a Plastic Bag Reduction Strategy that included public consultations and seminars that would stretch to the middle of 2012. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bill may turn up in Maritimes

STORM Hurricane Bill is headed toward Canada's East Coast, but it's too soon to predict if the storm will make landfall, Environment Canada says.

Peter Bowyer, a supervisor at the Canadian Hurricane Centre, said the storm is expected to enter the region or its adjacent waters late Sunday — but even the time frame was in doubt.

"We will never use the word 'definite' on a five-day forecast, especially when it comes to tropical storms or hurricanes," Bowyer said.

"What they could be doing right now is not freaking out ..."
Peter Bowyer, expert

When asked what residents should be doing to prepare for the storm, Bowyer stressed storms like Bill often stay offshore.

"What they could be doing right now is not freaking out completely," he said.

That means people in the region should remain calm, but take the time to get prepared, he said.

With maximum sustained winds clocked at 217 km/h, Bill was classed as a powerful Category 4 storm.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Cop testifies at sex assault trial

A 12-year-old alleged victim of a sexual assault was found bruised and naked from the waist down after police abandoned a high-speed chase of a van registered to Stanley Tippett, a man "known to coerce young girls," court heard yesterday.

Const. Robbie Harding, a uniformed officer with Durham Regional Police, told the court he responded to a call at a high school just east of Oshawa, Ont., on Aug. 6, 2008 after receiving reports of screams and crying in a wooded area.

Stanley Tippett

He came upon a man who fled in a red van upon seeing the cop cruiser, and pursued the van, which was going so fast it became airborne at times, court heard.

Harding was eventually told to stop the chase, but not before getting the van's licence plate, he testified.

When Harding returned to the school he saw a young girl, holding onto a fence, staggering forward with her lower body exposed.

"She didn't have any shoes, any socks, any pants, any underwear," Harding told the court.

"She was wet and dirty and had scrapes on her legs," as well as bruises on her eyes and a cut on her arm. The girl was unsteady and incoherent, but was able to identify herself, he said.

By then, Harding said, he realized she was the young girl who had been reported missing in Peterborough.

"She was kind of whimpering, crying," Harding said, adding the girl, dressed only in a black hoodie and a green undershirt torn down the middle, was trying to pull her hoodie down to cover her body.

"She just said she just wanted to go home."

The van's licence plate was traced back to Tippett, a man "known to coerce young girls," Harding told the court. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Cops hope re-enactment leads to horse killers

RCMP Mounties hope a Crime Stoppers re-enactment will help them find who is killing wild horses in the Alberta foothills.

Sgt. Patrick Webb says it's believed whoever is killing the horses near Sundre, Alta., is doing it because they don't want them in the area.

Spree

- Since the early '90s, nearly 30 wild horses have been fatally shot.

The latest shooting happened at the end of April when three horses near a road were shot by someone using a high-powered rifle.

On Tuesday, a re-enactment of the horse deaths was filmed in hopes of generating new tips.

A $25,000 reward is being offered to anyone who gives information leading to an arrest.

"To be taking the opportunity to sit in a vehicle, or next to it, and shoot an animal that has done nothing wrong is cowardly and disgusting," Webb said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Al-Qaida supporter recaptured after Beirut prison escape
A senior Lebanese security official says army commandos have recaptured fugitive Taha al-Hajj Suleiman of the al-Qaida-inspired Fatah Islam group a day after he escaped from a prison near Beirut. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Missiles on hold?

Israeli President Shimon Peres says his Russian counterpart has promised to reconsider the planned delivery of top-range air defence missiles to Iran. Peres says the sale of the S-300 missiles would tilt a delicate balance of forces in the Middle East. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Blood flows as vote looms

Blood flowed again in Kandahar province yesterday — the eve of Afghanistan's crucial presidential election.

The governor of Registan district and another man were killed by a roadside bomb.

And two election officials were killed in a separate roadside bomb in the Spin Boldak region.

But yesterday's bloodshed was far from startling in the restive province, the spiritual birthplace of the Taliban.

Elsewhere in the country, a shootout with armed gunmen at a bank in the centre of Kabul was the latest in a series of attacks in recent days that have shattered the relative peace of the capital.

Meanwhile, Afghans celebrated a national holiday honouring their independence from British rule.

Officials at the Independent Election Commission said they expect about 90 per cent of the 7,000 polling centres across the country would be open today. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Inkstains spell danger to voters

ELECTION When Afghans emerge from polling booths today they'll have glaring proof they flouted insurgent threats and cast their ballots.

In order to vote, everyone will have to dip a thumb into a pot of indelible ink. It's an effort by authorities to ensure that each person gets only one vote.

The ink stains the skin and does not wash off.

But the Taliban have threatened to dismember — or worse — anyone bearing the "election stain." THE CANADIAN PRESS

KEVIN FRAYER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An Afghan police officer throws a disabled man to the ground as journalists look on in Kabul, Afghanistan, yesterday. The journalists were being forced to leave the area of a gunbattle with insurgents. Gunfire and explosions reverberated through the heart of the Afghan capital.

Swiss spill the beans

MONEY Swiss banking giant UBS AG agreed yesterday to turn over to the U.S. taxman details of 4,450 accounts suspected of holding undeclared assets.

The move pierces Switzerland's long-standing tradition of banking secrecy.

IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman said the accounts held $18 billion in assets at one time.

Many have since been closed, he said.

The deal will give the Internal Revenue Service thousands of long-sought account names, Shulman said.

The Swiss Bankers Association issued a statement in support of the agreement. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This man made TV history — just by telling a story

TV LEGEND Don Hewitt, the CBS newsman who invented the highly popular TV newsmagazine 60 Minutes and produced it for 36 years, died yesterday. He was 86.

His death came a month after that of fellow CBS legend Walter Cronkite.

60 Minutes was TV's top-rated show four times, most recently in 1992-93.

Hewitt died of pancreatic cancer at his Bridgehampton, NY, home.

He joined CBS News in television's infancy in 1948, and produced the first televised presidential debate in 1960.

He made his mark in the late 1960s when CBS agreed to try his idea of a one-hour broadcast that mixed hard news and feature stories.

The television newsmagazine was born on Sept. 24, 1968.

He dreamed of a television version of Life, the dominant magazine of the mid-20th century, where interviews with entertainers could co-exist with investigations that exposed corporate malfeasance.

"The formula is simple," he wrote in a memoir in 2001, "and it's reduced to four words every kid in the world knows: Tell me a story. It's that easy."

60 Minutes won 73 Emmys, 13 DuPont/Columbia University Awards and nine Peabody Awards during Hewitt's stewardship, which ended in 2004. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JIM COOPER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Don Hewitt created the TV newsmagazine 60 Minutes.

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DNA test proves jailed man didn't commit crimes
A Connecticut judge has dismissed murder and rape charges against a man who spent two decades in prison before DNA testing cleared him. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democrats could go solo on health reform

It could have been the Nazi comparisons. Perhaps it was recent remarks from top Republicans that they'd support no health-care reform bill. Or it could just be spent reserves of patience following weeks of misinformation about death panels and health insurance for illegal aliens.

Whatever the reason, Democrats appeared to be fighting back yesterday amid relentless attacks from Republicans and their supporters about U.S. President Barack Obama's sweeping health-care overhaul.

The White House and leading Democrats were reportedly plotting to "go it alone" — in other words, to ram health-care reform legislation through Congress without the bipartisan support Obama had promised.

Two top Democrats in the House of Representatives, meantime, have asked dozens of the country's biggest health insurance companies to provide detailed financial records by early September.

The House returns from summer recess on Sept. 8, when health-care reform will be the top item of business.

JOEL PAGE / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

A protester wears a 9mm pistol as he stands outside a town hall meeting on health-care held by President Barack Obama, in Portsmouth, N.H., last week.

Fifty-two letters have been sent to health insurers making $2 billion US or more in annual premiums, upping the ante as the White House reportedly prepares to demonize the health insurance industry in the next round of the reform battle.

The letters were sent as part of a congressional probe into executive compensation and other business practices in an industry that vehemently opposes Obama's health-care reform plans and is suspected of organizing some of the grassroots opposition to it. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Saudi Arabia arrests 44 suspected militants

DEVIANTS Saudi authorities have arrested 44 suspected militants who sought to recruit youths and finance their "deviant activities" through charitable donations, an Interior Ministry statement said yesterday.

The statement said ongoing investigations have revealed the "danger posed by the members of the network and the tight links" between some of them and the foreign-based leadership of "the deviant group," a euphemism Saudi officials use to refer to al-Qaida.

Authorities seized more than 60 machine-guns, scores of boxes of ammunition, as well as 96 electronics circuits that work as switches to ignite explosive materials from a long distance, according to the statement carried by the official Saudi Press Agency.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

SECURITY Radisson Hotels & Resorts says its computer systems have been accessed without authorization. Radisson says it has informed customers of the situation and that guest information may have been accessed, including credit card numbers. Social security numbers were not included. Radisson did not say how many hotels have been affected but advised that all guests review their account statements. Unauthorized purchases should be reported. Authorities are investigating the incident.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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With minutes to go, South Korea calls off rocket launch

South Korea's first rocket launch was aborted just minutes before liftoff yesterday. The reason wasn't immediately provided. The launch would have taken place just months after North Korea was criticized for firing its own rocket in defiance of the U.N. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The picnic that changed the course of history

ANDREAS RENTZ/GETTY IMAGES

Angela Merkel: Wings

Twenty years ago yesterday, members of Hungary's budding opposition organized a picnic — and the world would never be the same.

The event, at the border with Austria, was aimed at pressing for greater freedom.

But about 600 East Germans got word of it and turned up among the 10,000 participants.

Their plan: To take advantage of an excursion across the border and escape to Austria. It worked.

Yesterday, Hungarian President Laszelo Solyom and German Chancellor Angela Merkel took part in festivities marking the 20th anniversary of the picnic, which helped precipitate the fall nearly three months later of the Berlin Wall.

"Hungarians gave wings to the East Germans' desire for freedom."
Angela Merkel

"Hungarians gave wings to the East Germans' desire for freedom," Merkel said.

One of the key factors allowing the Germans to escape: The decision by a border commander not to stop them.

Lt. Col. Arpad Bella, remembered the scene: "They embraced, they kissed, they cried and laughed in their joy."

Laszlo Nagy, a picnic organizer, said the East Germans left behind hundreds of cars and other possessions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Blasts kill 95, wound 400

OUTRAGE Two of Iraq's government ministries were targeted yesterday as a wave of explosions around Baghdad killed at least 95 people and wounded more than 400.

A truck bomb exploded across the street from the Foreign Ministry, knocking out concrete slabs and windows and leaving a mass of charred cars outside.

A suicide truck bomber also targeted the Finance Ministry minutes earlier in the deadliest apparently co-ordinated attack in Iraq so far this year.

Prime Minister Nouri al Maliki blamed Sunni insurgents for the attacks.

"The criminal acts that took place today require us to re-evaluate our plans and security mechanisms in order to confront" the terrorists, al-Maliki said.

He said an alliance of al-Qaida in Iraq and Saddam Hussein loyalists was behind the attacks.

The most devastating strike blackened the facade of the Foreign Ministry, killing at least 59 people and wounding 250.

Dozens of cars were charred and plumes of smoke rose into the sky.

Hospital officials said at least 28 people were killed and 117 wounded in the Finance Ministry blast. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pullout

- U.S. troops withdrew from Iraq's cities on June 30 under a security pact that outlines the American withdrawal by the end of 2011.
- U.S. President Barack Obama has ordered all U.S. combat troops out of Iraq by Aug. 31, 2010.

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Comment

Facebook kills ... your relationships

Relating

Nobody likely registered extreme surprise at a new study suggesting Facebook users experience more jealousy in their relationships.

In "More Information than You Ever Wanted: Does Facebook Bring Out the Green-Eyed Monster of Jealousy?" University of Guelph researchers surveyed undergraduate students about their Facebook use and its effect on their love life.

Among the findings: "The ease of making connections on Facebook may increase contact with past romantic and sexual partners, creating the potential for jealousy in current relationships."

You don't say.

When the Canadian Privacy Commissioner raised the alarm about Facebook's possible contravention of privacy laws last month, she was primarily worried about corporate misuse of personal information, not the ways in which your nearest and dearest might use it against you. Big Girlfriend is watching.

One subject told the University of Guelph researchers, "It turns people into nosey parkers."

The study's authors also identified a "feedback loop," wherein information on your partner snooped from Facebook leads to more jealousy.

On the web

- For more views on relating, go to Love Bytes at metronews.ca/blogs

The amount of time spent on Facebook is also cited as a factor, and this should surprise nobody either.

We so often hear that younger people don't attach as much importance to privacy as us codgers, but it may just be they haven't been burned as often as we have. I think some may be catching on.

My girlfriend's teenaged kids all started out Facebook friends with her, but soon realized the implications of having your mom privy to certain colourful details.

Two of three have since ditched her, and she was actually relieved to be out of the loop.

I've opted out of Facebook, which strikes me as kind of an endless high school reunion, an opportunity to interact awkwardly with all kinds of people you never knew well, and probably drifted away from for perfectly good reasons.

It seems we've created a technology remarkably well suited for breathing new life into long-dead relationships while poisoning live ones. What will we think of next?

Steve Collins offers his best guesses on relationships for Metro every two weeks.

Views

Look at how far we've come — not far at all

FourthWave

The third season of TV series Mad Men premiered this Sunday; in it, the staff at ad agency Sterling Cooper is jettisoned into 1963.

Oh, what a year it turns out to be: Housewives awaken from domestic stupor when The Feminine Mystique is published; Camelot tumbles; singer Sam Cooke writes his iconic song A Change is Gonna Come, about simmering racial tension in the South.

Mad Men, a show its creator Matthew Weiner has said is feminist, signals the third season's tone in the opening minutes, when Sterling Cooper's lone male secretary mutters, "This place is a gynocracy."

Though Manhattan was a man's world, the woman's life is well-explored: they're passed over for jobs; pre-marital sex makes them "strumpets"; men rape them; they consider abortions.

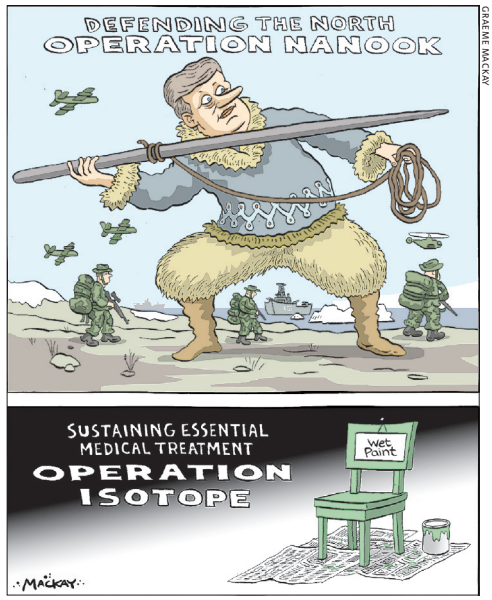
Consider Christina Hendricks' account of how viewers reacted to her character Joan's rape: "People say things like, 'Well, you know that episode where Joan sort of got raped?' Or they say rape and use quotation marks with their fingers ... It illustrates how similar people are today, because we're still questioning whether it's a rape."

I chuckled when Joan shows the new-girl secretary Peggy to her typewriter. "It looks complicated, but the men who designed it made it simple enough for a woman to use," she assures her.

Mad Men was set in a world on the cusp of change, edging its way to free love, desegregation and violent war — but they clung, and still we cling, to antiquated notions. Every generation has its revolution, and ours is now. It's Afghanistan, where a law was passed that allows men to starve their wives for denying them sex. It's a Carleton student, who is suing her school after it allegedly implied she was "asking for" a sex assault by working late at night in a secluded lab. It's women being interrogated before an abortion.

Mad Men is a mirror, and if we look into it, we will see that our turmoil is as it always has been.

Canice Leung is a former editor of Ryerson University feminist magazine McClung's, copy editor at Metro, ardent feminist and loudmouth.



GRAEME MACKAY

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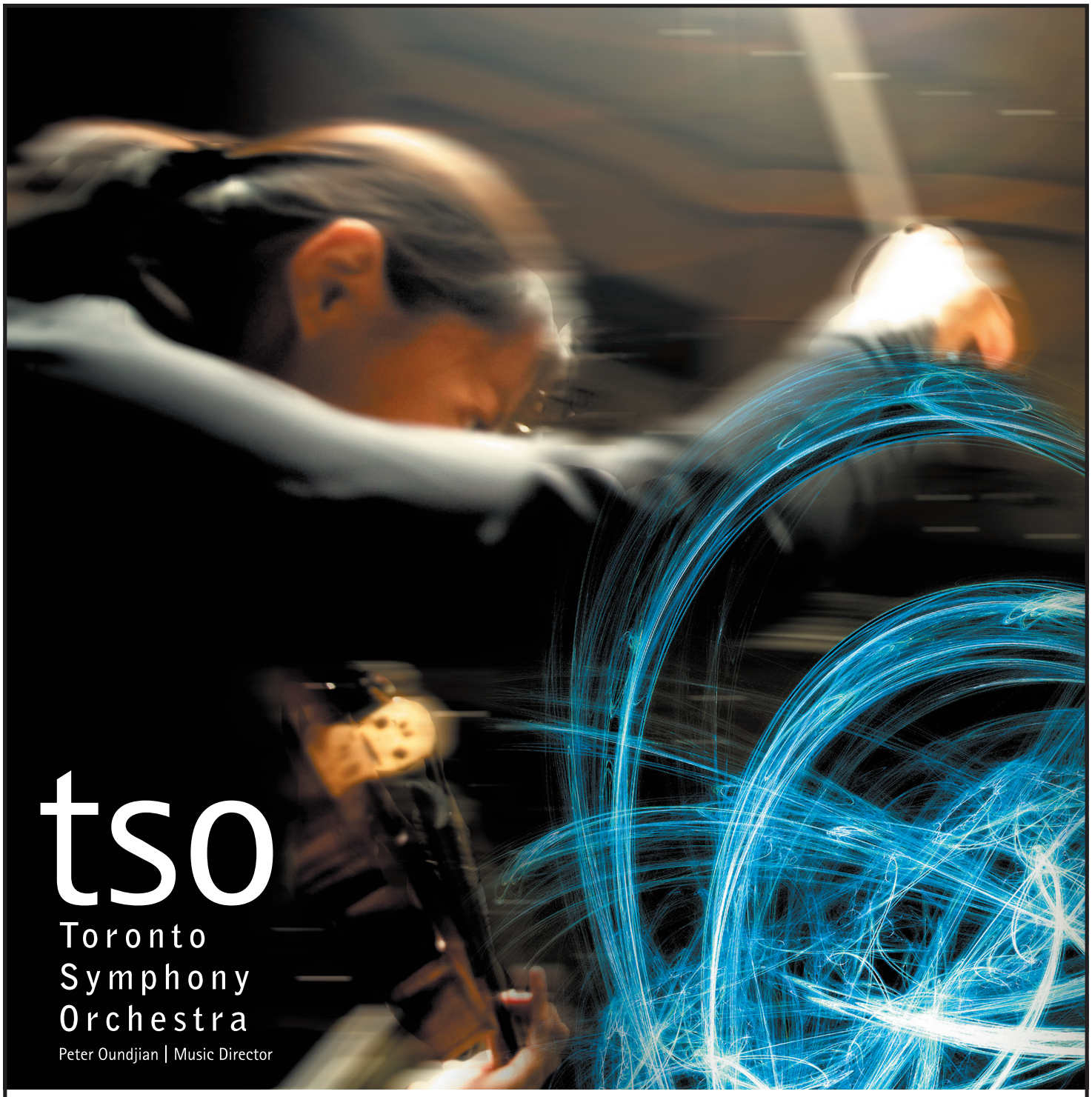

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Vector gets Brazil military contract

Vector Aerospace Corp. says it has received a five-year, $15-million US contract — awarded to Vector Helicopter Services - North America — from the Brazilian military to provide support for the Brazilian air force's fleet of Bell H-1H helicopters. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Business

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Business in brief

OPEL SALE Germany's economy ministry says the country is prepared to make €4.5 billion, or $6.96 billion, in credit available to a Canadian-Russian consortium in the bidding war to take over carmaker Adam Opel GmbH, a unit of General Motors Corp. The ministry confirmed comments by Deputy Economy Minster Jochen Homann, saying the government had informed GM that it would take on the full burden of the necessary credit, to avoid lengthy negotiations with other European countries that host factories of Opel or GM Europe.

LEAD BACKER Export Development Canada is becoming the leading backer behind a $1-billion fund to extend credit to struggling Canadian companies. The Crown corporation has put up $450 million and Toronto-based Brookfield Asset Management Inc. another $100 million into the fund that the two parties expect will grow to $1 billion. In a joint statement, the EDC and Brookfield said the fund would provide debtor-in-possession loans to companies needing protection from creditors while undergoing restructuring.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Figures show sting of recession easing

Evidence of an economic rebound mounts

Evidence is mounting the recession in Canada is over, making it the shortest though deepest since the Second World War.

Statistics Canada reported yesterday the composite leading index — a broad measure of economic indicators — rose for the first time since all the difficulties began last August, ticking up 0.4 per cent in July.

And the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce notes that despite rising unemployment, the average duration of unemployment — the time it takes to find a new job — remains at a relatively brief 15 weeks, just a week higher than the pre-recession level. That is far better than the average 20 weeks duration experienced in 1991 during a comparable point in the downturn.

2.3% The Bank of Canada projects growth to average 3 per cent next year, although that is considerably rosier than the private sector consensus of about 2.3 per cent.

The leading indicators improvement is consistent with an economy that has stabilized and may indeed have begun to grow.

"It's tentative evidence that suggests the downturn is over and we're heading higher," said economist Sal Guatieri of BMO Capital Markets.

The CIBC points out that although workers may be finding it easier to find replacement jobs, the unemployment rate will rise to nine per cent from the current 8.6 per cent in the next few months.

Since last October, when the economy began its rapid descent, 414,000 jobs have vanished in Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shoppers not buying recovery

CONSUMERS Department stores may take longer to bounce back from the recession as consumers slowly begin to reopen their wallets but remain selective about where to spend their discretionary dollars, says an analyst.

Toronto-based Sears Canada is one example of a department store that's still suffering, even though the recession is said to be ending and consumer spending is creeping back slowly.

The retail chain reported sales slipped 12 per cent and profit dived 20 per cent in the second quarter compared to last year. Sears blamed tighter consumer spending and colder summer for cooler sales.

Retail analyst John Winter of Toronto-based retail consultants John Winter Associates, said the problem is the department-store model of trying to offer all things to consumers, which can weigh it down when economic times are tough.

"They have to wait more than other types of stores for a general improvement in the economy because they are all things to all people," said Winter.

Softer home sales have cut into demand for appliances and tools, used in the home and on construction sites, that Sears sells.

Winter believes stores such as The Bay and Zellers are likely down as much or even more than Sears.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Profit and sales at Sears Canada

- Sears' profit fell to $49.1 million or 45 cents per share for the quarter, down from year-earlier earnings of $61.5 million or 57 cents per share.
- Sales sagged 12 per cent to $1.25 billion compared with $1.42 billion a year ago. Same-store sales dropped 10 per cent during the quarter.

RIM says public want Nortel sale to be halted

ASSETS Canadians want and expect the federal government to prevent the $1.1-billion US sale of Nortel Network's coveted wireless assets to Ericsson of Sweden, Research In Motion said yesterday.

RIM issued a statement after the deadline passed for appeals to challenge a bankruptcy court ruling allowing the Nortel sale.

RIM said it wants Industry Minister Tony Clement to help negotiate a deal between RIM and Nortel.

Long-time Nortel watcher Duncan Stewart said the Harper government was looking for an excuse to avoid intervening in the Nortel deal by valuing the assets at a fraction of the sale price.

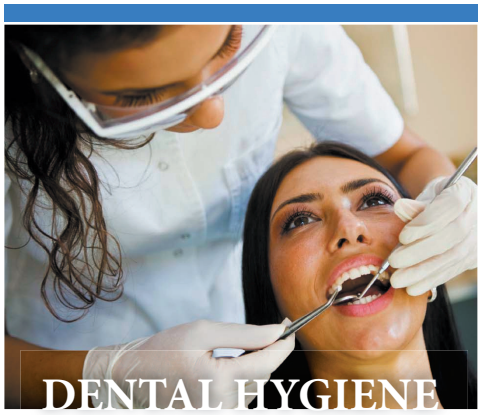
A published report said the sale of Nortel's wireless technology would be evaluated by the federal government based on the $149-million balance sheet value of its assets, far too low to trigger a review under the Investment Canada Act.

If the enterprise value were used, the sale would surpass the threshold for a review, said Stewart.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rules

- Investment Canada has a $312-million threshold for a full-scale review of a sale, but new rules approved by cabinet would change the evaluation to "enterprise value" which includes intellectual property and employees.



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The Truth about Back Pain and Headaches

How a revolutionary home therapy system is helping people stay away from the pain killers

If you suffer from chronic pain, you know that it causes much more than discomfort. It also impacts your outlook on life and interferes with daily activities. Treating the cause of the pain instead of just the symptoms will help you effectively live life more fully, Dr. Michael Ho advises.

"Most chronic pain, including back pain and fibromyalgia, is not a disease but a condition. Being in chronic pain affects your mood, your family, your productivity at work and your enjoyment of daily life," says Dr.Ho. "Relying on pain pills is not the answer! In order to get rid of the pain, you need to get rid of the cause."

Dr.Ho has been treating patients with chronic conditions such as back pain, fibromyalgia, arthritis, pinched nerves, headaches, sciatica and repetitive strain injuries for more than 20 years. "Over 90% of all pain is involved with muscle tension. Restricted joint movement and irritation of blood vessels and/or nerve fibres are the focal causes of pain," he says.

"We need to relax tense muscles, restore movement to joints and improve blood and nerve circulation," says Dr.Ho. Dr.Michael Ho developed his Muscle Therapy System for use in his clinic and later created a home system to meet the needs of patients.

"Many people cannot afford the time or the cost of treating their chronic pain and end up running to clinics when they're in crisis," says Dr.Ho. "Others simply don't have access to the help they need."

The system is easy to use and comes with an instructional DVD that shows you where to place massage pads for 20 common conditions, including aching lower back and neck and shoulder pain or pain caused by arthritis. This medical science breakthrough uses a microchip program which simulates deep muscle massage therapy and muscle movement exercises to the targeted tense and tight muscles.

The system features three leading technologies: transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation (TENS), electronic muscle stimulation (EMS) and pulse massage stimulation. The combined technology works together to decrease pain, relax the muscles and improve blood and nerve circulation. Dr.Ho says, "It is vital for long-term pain relief that these technologies are used together. By combining these technologies into one portable unit, my patients have experienced faster, longer lasting pain relief." This is truly a life changing breakthrough. The system promotes natural healing. "Many people have concerns that drugs may cause unwanted side effects. You can use this system even if you are on medications. It's also safe for people with metal implants - such as a knee or hip replacement - and can relieve their pain and stiffness."

Dr.Ho points to independent studies that have found Dr-Ho's Muscle Therapy System reduces muscle tension, improves circulation and reduces pain significantly within 20 minutes of use. "It's designed so you can do the things you enjoy in life," says Dr.Ho.

DR-HO'S Muscle Therapy System is one of the only registered medical devices with Health Canada that is clinically proven to relieve pain, improve circulation and decrease stiffness in as little as 20 minutes. "It doesn't matter how long you've been suffering, I've had patients who have suffered with chronic pain for 50+ years and still got tremendous relief using the Muscle Therapy System." says Dr.Ho. If you are suffering from pain, I urge you to try the Muscle Therapy System. You've suffered long enough, it's time for pain and pain killers to stop controlling your life.

For more information about how you can benefit from Dr.Ho's Muscle Therapy System, call 1-877-374-6669 or visit www.DrHoNow.com

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Smoltz goes from Red Sox to Redbirds

John Smoltz will resume his major-league career, agreeing to a contract with the St. Louis Cardinals. The former Cy Young winner was released Monday by the Boston Red Sox. The 42-year-old Smoltz is expected to join the Cardinals today in San Diego. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Gender questioned

The IAAF has asked the South African athletics federation to conduct a gender verification test on Caster Semenya, left, amid concerns she does not meet the requirements to compete as a woman. The 18-year-old easily won the 800-metre gold medal yesterday at the world championships. The IAAF says the "extremely complex, difficult" test has been started but the results were not expected for several weeks. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

Burnley stuns Man. United

SOCCER Burnley beat Manchester United for the first time in 41 years with a stunning 1-0 victory over the English Premier League champions yesterday.

Liverpool bounced back from its loss at Tottenham on the opening weekend of the season by routing Stoke 4-0, while Spurs maintained its strong start by thrashing Hull 5-1 as Jermain Defoe scored a hat trick.

After a 33-year absence of topflight football at Turf Moor, Robbie Blake scored for Burnley in the 19th minute with a near post volley which flashed past goalkeeper Ben Foster.

Blake conceded a penalty before halftime after making a sliding tackle on Patrice Evra, but goalkeeper Brian Jensen made a flying save to keep out England midfielder Michael Carrick's spot kick.

Jensen then repelled United's threat throughout the second half to clinch Burnley's first victory since September 1968 over the Red Devils, who are bidding for a fourth straight title.

"We're disappointed and it wasn't a great performance by us," United manager Sir Alex Ferguson said. "It was Burnley's night — so many things happened in their box I don't know how we didn't score.

"With the chances we had, we should have won."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lopes-Schliep leaps to silver

Scarborough-born hurdler has strong showing at world track championship

Ten minutes before race time they came looking for her.

Not her coach with some last-minute advice, and not her husband with a couple of last words of encouragement. No, the visitors for Canadian hurdler Priscilla Lopes-Schliep were from doping control and they wanted a urine sample.

"When they came up to me I was shocked," she said. "I just tried to put it out of my head, I couldn't let it get to me, and just do what I had to do. None of the other girls had that situation happen. I was the only one, but I think I dealt with it pretty good."

That she did, as the Whitby resident added a world championship silver to the Olympic bronze she won at the Beijing Olympics last summer.

Her time of 12.54 seconds yesterday in the 100-metre hurdles at the IAAF World Championships left her just back of the 12.51 posted by gold medallist Brigitte Foster-Hylton. Fellow Jamaican Delloreen Ennis-London was third in 12.55.

DAVID J. PHILLIP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jamaica's Brigitte Foster-Hylton, right, crosses the finish line to win the gold medal in the Women's 100m Hurdles during the World Athletics Championships yesterday in Berlin. At centre is Canada's Priscilla Lopes-Schliep, silver, and at left Jamaica's Delloreen Ennis-London, bronze.

Lopes-Schliep was especially pleased with the result given the "big distraction" she had with the doping control just before the race, something she didn't realize was possible.

"To have to deal with that, I think I overcame that," said Lopes-Schliep, who was also asked for a sample after the race, but didn't have to produce twice. "Basically refocusing, regather myself, do what I had to do, get off those blocks as fast as could, I think executed that pretty well."

That wasn't the case for former world champion Perdita Felicien of Pickering, who had a disastrous race.

Athletics Canada said cramping in her calves caused her to clip the second hurdle, and she ended up finishing last in 15.53 seconds.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sports in brief

RACINO Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment chair Larry Tanenbaum appears to be getting into the racino business in Belleville. Plaza Gaming and Entertainment Corp., a division of Tanenbaum's Toronto-based Kilmer Group, has submitted a letter of intent to acquire 75 per cent interest in the planned Quinte Racetrack and Slots facility in Belleville. The project's developer, Baymount Inc., announced the deal, approval for which still is required from the province's racing and alcohol and gaming commissions. Baymount said revenues from the sale will be used to complete construction of the project.

NEW RINK The new four-rink ice complex set to open in September in south Etobicoke that will be the practice home of the Leafs will be known as the MasterCard Centre for Hockey Excellence. The credit card company will be title sponsor of the complex, which has three regulation-sized rinks and one Olympic-sized rink, on a five-year contract with a five-year mutual option to extend.

BASEBALL The Dodgers have placed right-hander Hiroki Kuroda on the disabled list while he recovers from post-concussion symptoms. The move was made yesterday. Kuroda was hit in the head by a line drive at Arizona on Saturday. Right-hander Jeff Weaver will take Kuroda's turn in the rotation in the series opener against the Chicago Cubs today.

TENNIS Roger Federer couldn't be broken during his opening match at the Cincinnati Masters. Federer held serve throughout a 6-3, 7-5 win over Jose Acasuso on Wednesday, facing only one break point all match. The Swiss star made 70 per cent of his first serves and piled up 14 aces. After winning his record 15th Grand Slam at Wimbledon, Federer took time off to become the father of twin girls. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Williams buying into Dolphins: Report
Venus and Serena Williams will become the latest celebrities to own a stake in the Miami Dolphins, a person familiar with the deal said yesterday. Musicians Gloria and Emilio Estefan and Marc Anthony recently bought small shares of the team. METRO NEWS SERVICES

World No. 1 eliminated

Safina crashes out at Rogers Cup

A balky serve cost Dinara Safina both her composure and her chances at a Rogers Cup title.

The top-seeded Russian committed 17 double faults on the way to a 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 loss to France's Aravane Rezai in the second-round yesterday at the US$2-million WTA Tour event. Safina's loss comes one day after No. 3 seed Venus Williams was upset by Ukraine's Kateryna Bondarenko.

The 23-year-old was broken three straight times in the third and deciding set, slamming her racket to the ground after the final point and barely acknowledging her 22-year-old opponent when the two met at the net after the match. Anger gave way to tears afterward, as Safina fought her emotions while trying to explain how the match got away.

"It's my brain. I know exactly what I have to do, but if I'm not using my brain, I'm not doing the things my coach is telling me ... (I'm) too disappointed with myself."
Dinara Safina

"It's my brain," said Safina, who lost an opening match for the first time since February. "I know exactly what I have to do, but if I'm not using my brain, I'm not doing the things my coach is telling me . . . (I'm) too disappointed with myself."

The tournament lost another marquee player when No. 8 Caroline Wozniacki fell 7-5, 6-3 to China's Jie Zheng. Wozniacki was broken seven times in the match, and saved just one of four break points in the second set.

No. 12 Flavia Pennetta of Italy is also out after a 6-3, 6-1 loss to Virginie Razzano of France.

Seeded players to advance to round three yesterday included No. 4 Elena Dementieva of Russia, who cruised past Japan's Ai Sugiyama 6-3, 6-2, No. 5 Jelena Jankovic, who defeated Switzerland's Patty Schnyder 7-5, 6-4, and No. 7 Vera Zvonareva, who downed Italy's Roberta Vinci 6-3, 6-3.

Fan favourite Maria Sharapova, working her way back from a shoulder injury that sidelined her for nearly a year, also reached the third round with a 6-3, 7-6 (5) victory over Sybille Bammer of Austria. Sharapova wasn't at her best, but was good enough to reach the round of 16 in her first visit to Toronto since she was a teenager.

"I'm actually having a competition with myself to see how many errors and double-faults I can make and still win the match in two sets," Sharapova joked. "The fact that I served that way and still won the match in two sets is certainly going to give me a lot of confidence when my arm is where it needs to be and when my serve gets to where it has to be."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Blue Jays **Big Papi bests Doc**

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto pitcher Roy Halladay and teammate Edwin Encarnacion, right, watch as Boston designated hitter David Ortiz rounds the bases following a solo home run during the second inning last night at the Rogers Centre. **For a full recap, visit metronews.ca/sports**

Etobicoke's Votto leaves game in first inning

BASEBALL Cincinnati Reds first baseman Joey Votto has left the game against the San Francisco Giants after the top of the first inning.

There was no immediate announcement of a reason for the Toronto native to leave last night's game.

Kevin Barker struck out looking batting for Votto in the bottom of the inning. Barker stayed in the game at first base.

Votto, who tied injured teammate Jay Bruce for the team lead in home runs with his 18th on Tuesday, missed 21 games in late May and June with depression and anxiety related to the death of his father last year. He missed several games and had to leave others earlier in May with dizziness caused by an inner-ear infection.

Votto entered the game hitting .317 with 59 RBIs in 88 games.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports in brief

HOCKEY The Carolina Hurricanes signed veteran forward Stephane Yelle to a US$550,000, one-year deal yesterday. It will be the fourth NHL team for the two-time Stanley Cup winner, who spent last season in Boston. The 35-year-old Yelle had 18 points (7-11) in 77 games with the Bruins last season. He was a plus-6 and won 52 per cent of his faceoffs.

FAVRE The Vikings have sold more than 3,200 season tickets since news broke that Brett Favre was coming to Minnesota. That's in approximately a 24-hour span. Chief marketing officer Steve LaCroix says the team has also sold about 10,000 single-game tickets during that time as fans continue to clamour over the arrival of the veteran quarterback.

BASEBALL It'll cost just a dollar to get a glimpse of the Washington Nationals' new US$15-million man. The Washington Nationals are offering at least 2,000 tickets for $1 apiece for Friday's game against the Milwaukee Brewers — a matchup that will be preceded by an on-field news conference with No. 1 overall draft pick Stephen Strasburg. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kane relieved charges lowered to misdemeanour

HOCKEY Chicago Blackhawks star Patrick Kane says it's a "positive step" that he will be charged only on misdemeanour assault and theft charges in connection with an attack on a Buffalo taxi driver over change for a fare.

Erie County District Attorney Frank Sedita III said yesterday in Buffalo that a grand jury dismissed a more serious felony charge of second-degree robbery.

"Yeah, if the felony's dropped that's obviously a positive step — definitely," said the 20-year-old Kane, who was at the three-day U.S. Olympic hockey team orientation camp that closed yesterday.

"The sooner it gets over with, the more everyone will be happy."

The Kanes earlier pleaded not guilty to the charges. They are scheduled to be arraigned this afternoon.

Patrick Kane's lawyer Paul Cambria was not immediately available for comment.

"As is the practice in all criminal cases, the assigned prosecutor and defence counsel will discuss a possible resolution of the case short of trial," Sedita said in a statement. A plea deal, he added, would be based in part on the victim's wishes and the severity of his injuries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Incident

- Kane and his cousin, James Kane, were arrested Aug. 9 after 62-year-old cabbie Jan Radecki told police they attacked him when he said he didn't have 20 cents in change for the fare. James Kane was indicted on the same charges.

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RateSupermarket.ca

Metro Homes

Time is of the Essence

Graham and Brown has released a new line of wallpaper called Essence. These trend-inspired patterns offer an intense dichotomy between bold stripes and delicate florals in crimsons, charcoals, duck eggs and creams. Shown here is Alum in damson and gold. See grahambrown.com.

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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BMO	CIBC	HSBC	ICICI	ING	RBC	Scotia	TD	Broker
2.65%	2.65%	2.70%	3.50%	2.65%	2.65%	2.65%	2.65%	2.55%

‘Modern country is the next trend’

Suite Talk

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

To combine modern space with country comfort, Port of Newcastle had to learn a few old tricks.

The newest development by Kylemore Communities located in Newcastle, Ont., offers spaciously modern homes infused with a countryside feel. Think country sensibilities with all the style and substance of a modern sanctuary.

“I think modern country is the next trend — I’d almost call it glamorous country,” said Jane Lockhart, designer and star of W Network’s Colour Confidential.

Lockhart wanted to create a modern look that allowed for comfort and practicality to better survive the wear-and-tear of daily life.

The first of two models, the 3800-square-foot “Yacht” home, is trimmed in oceanic blues and features oiled-oak floors, cream coloured cabinetry and warm tones throughout to maintain the sense of a relaxing beach house. The 3200-square-foot “Camber” model features hardwood floors, crown moulding and softer contrasts like butter-creams and yellows to create the feel of a modern countryside retreat.

Unlike ultra-modern designs, which often feature materials that lose their sheen or collect fingerprints quickly, Lockhart’s combination of modern geometry with old-world trimmings and colours lets owners enjoy a sleek look safe in the knowledge that their floor won’t wear out a few months after the kids start running all over it.

“Our job as designers is to make houses look beautiful but also to have them wear well. You still want that ‘Wow!’ factor when people walk in but you don’t want to be up all night to get it,” Lockhart said.

Dark hardwood floors in the Camber model feature a finish that shows off the roughness of the wood grain, which helps hide minor damage while maintaining the nice dark sheen many homeowners love.

For more information about Port of Newcastle, visit kylemore communities.com.

Seen here are shots of both the Yacht and Camber models.

Making use of all your home’s waste

HomeScape

The idea of home composting is becoming a lot more appealing After all, it’s the organic stuff that stinks, and taking care of most of it by composting is one great way to reduce the stinky factor.

There are many different ways to reduce the garbage you produce, and home composting is only one of them. To start, there are a ton of websites devoted to the fine art of composting, but the bottom line is to layer green nitrogen-rich waste (fruit and vegetable peelings, coffee grounds, teabags, grass clippings but NO meat, dairy or other greasy food items) with “brown” items that are rich in carbon (fall leaves, shredded newspaper, spent plants, pine needles, wood chips, egg shells or corncobs). Use at least twice to four times as much “brown” as “green,” and constantly adjust to get the mix just right. Finished compost should be damp, crumbly and look like soil. See the very useful Composters Council of Canada website (compost.org) for further information.

If you decide to compost, here’s a few hints to get back into the swing of it.

- If you’ve got a small yard, consider a space-saving rotating composter, with a 26-inch diameter, which holds six cubic feet of compost and collects compost “tea” for watering. No need to pitchfork this mess around — just rotate the drum. Lee Valley Tools carries this composter for $185. See leevalley.com
- A cheaper alternative is to use a garbage can with a firm lid. Poke holes in it to help with aeration, and roll it on the ground whenever it needs mixing. No fuss, no muss.
- If you live in a condo or apartment, consider vermiculture, or composting with worms. No it’s not as disgusting as it sounds. I tried it, and you can actually become attached to the wee wigglers. See cityfarmer.org for more information
- If you can’t use the compost yourself, in a garden or in potted houseplants, put it in bags and take it to the local market, and try bartering it for produce. Or give it away to gardeners in your neighbourhood. They’ll love you forever.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She’s written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

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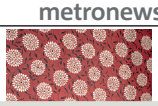

Darkly floral
Seen here is part of Graham and Brown's newest Essence collection. With big, confident blooms, it's called Flora and it's seen here in crimson, cream and charcoal. SEE GRAHAMBROWN.COM

A friendly place for art for Riverdale resident

Your **Space**

Resident: Jean Stilwell, 53, Mezzo-soprano & Radio Host, Producer
Space: One-bedroom, open-concept loft
Location: Riverdale
Price: Owned

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

Jean Stilwell's Riverdale loft is more than a mere expression of her self, but of the changing tides in the artist's life.

"When I moved from High Park, I wanted a blank canvas. I was basically starting life over again," she said. And a blank canvas is what she got. The massive dwelling, with 18-foot-high ceilings, is painted white from top to bottom, including its concrete floors. To colour her canvas, Stilwell decided upon placing furniture and artwork throughout that reflects what's most important to her — friends.

"Everything on my walls — paintwork, photography, everything — are my friends' works," she said, "I love having my friends around me."

In her dining area, Stilwell showcases two paintings by friend Kate Hollett, who she met at a reception only to realize they live in the same building. While Stilwell said the words displayed upon the works act somewhat as affirmations, their placement was (like the friends meeting) serendipitous, as the colours flow from one, to the other, to the graffiti of her and her son's names in the main foyer.

"It was just kind of a feel," said Stilwell, "I feel more. That's my job! Of course it takes technique and hard work, but I think that's the whole thing that makes artists unique: Their ability to feel."

A feeling of balance, beauty and simplicity is what Stilwell wanted when she asked her designer friend Amy Czettisch's advice on crafting a bed and complementary table for her space. Czettisch enlisted her husband David Steiner to create the pair, made of a 200-year-old oak tree that was pulled out of Rice Lake in southeastern Ontario.

"(The bed) reminds me of a Frank Gehry piece because it's very angular, very simple, with the most scrumptious wood," said Stilwell. "I said to David, 'I want a coffee table, but it has to be sensual.' That is the feminine balance to this bed."

To Stilwell, balance signifies simplicity, which is something she strives for in her home because, "I don't have a lot of balance!" she said with a laugh. "It is imperative to me that my house be simple, clean and that each piece has a function and a rich colour or texture."

Radio

- Catch Jean Stilwell and co-host Mike Duncan's show Good Day, GTA! weekdays from 5 to 10 a.m. on 96.3 FM.
- If you think your home has the character for Your Space, email douglas.dunlop@metronews.ca why.

Autumn brings different tricks for condos, houses

TheHunt

Metronews.ca/thehunt

Don't look now but Summer '09 only has about one month left. I know it feels as though it just started but I suppose we can blame Mother Nature for that. That being said, autumn isn't necessarily all gloom and doom, at least for many of us considering a real estate purchase.

Summer 2009 has been, to say the least, surprising. No one expected the market to pick up the way it did down the stretch. For the first time in quite some time the demand was actually significantly higher than supply.

The result was numerous bidding wars, properties selling for above market value, but for reasons not entirely similar to those we've grown accustomed to. It's important to understand that "above market value" is a relative term. While properties may have sold for above current recessionary values, in most cases, they rose to compete with the highest values of 2007. In other words, those purchasers who settled at list price or higher did not necessarily over pay.

So what does autumn bring? Well, the normal course of action from September onwards is for the number of properties on the market to decrease alongside the number of potential buyers. Here's where the biggest difference will likely occur, this year. When it comes to the housing market I expect the trend to remain fairly consistent. The main reason for this is the housing market, to a large extent, is comprised of families with school children. Invariably, this contributes to both supply and demand falling during the colder months and when the kiddies are in school.

On the condo front, however, Summer 2009 has left many buyers jaded with that sudden uppercut of an upswing and I expect many of them to continue searching with earnest throughout September and October, and perhaps even toward the holiday season. It is the mindset of many that prices will come down and great deals will be available once again as summer becomes a memory, and this will likely sustain a healthy level of demand throughout 2009's final four months. Now the optimistic side of the coin will tell you that this will encourage more owners to put their condos up for sale during fall and winter thereby levelling the balance and stabilizing the purchase of real estate in this city.

August has remained fairly consistent with the rest of spring/summer 2009 in terms of available properties, which leads me to believe that the coming months promise a unique ratio of buyers to sellers, in the condo market, specifically.

For condos, fall 2009 doesn't come with the same "guarantees" of autumns past. If you're dabbling in the housing market this fall/winter on the other hand, I believe Fall 2009 will begin to show signs of stabilization.

Amit is a Realtor/Developer with Re/Max. amitp@rogers.com

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Relaxing with a nice book and ... Add an erudite touch to the couch with these cotton throw cushions. **Library and Reading Glasses Pillows.** Both $29.99, Indigo, chapters.indigo.ca. **EMMA YARDLEY/FOR METRO CANADA**

This Alice Wood Set has a rustic retro feel but each piece is either treated with or made from durable modern materials. Dust pan, $24.95; brush, $29.95; and tool box, $100. All Teatro Verde, teatroverde.com.

Homes in **Style**

Content at **the cottage**

EMMA YARDLEY
for Metro Canada

Canadian cottage interiors are growing up and clearing out. Gone are the days of cutesy animal-themed wallpaper and crock jugs stuffed with dried baby's breath. Instead, make way for clean open spaces filled with rustic furnishings and vintage (or vintage-inspired) pieces.

"Country decor is often predictable, common and too fussy," says Karl Lohnes, Home Expert for Canada AM. "The new country decor is simpler and incorporates modern or industrial elements as a juxtaposition."

Whitewashed walls, battered wooden furniture and a mishmash of collected objects are still the pillars of cottage decor but add in treated concrete floors, modern window fittings and quirky home accents, and the cottage becomes cool rather than cluttered.

It's always nice to feel welcome. Hello Goodbye Doormat, $25, Urban Barn, urbanbarn.com.

No country experience is complete without a little porch rocking while looking over the lake at sunset. Mission Rocking Chair, $149.99, Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.

Mirroring classical design features of 19th century gilded frames, this carved weathered curlicue mirror is a perfect example of rustic charm. Anthropologie, $448, anthropologie.com.

See page 39 for some rustic food recipes!

Worn and weathered to perfection, the Markham console table is one piece that will continue to stand the test of time. Pottery Barn, $1,999, potterybarn.ca.

The Kingdom folding bench is a sleek and sophisticated interpretation of traditional canvas campstools. Urban Barn, $189, urbanbarn.com.

Enjoy the creature comforts of an afternoon nap wrapped in a Grizzly Throw. Urban Barn, $95, urbanbarn.com.

Metro's Pick: These Grizzly Throws look to be the epitome of comfort, and don't worry, it's faux-fur, so no animals were harmed making these fluffy blankets.

This velvet pearl chaise has both the comfort and clean lines that define the new cottage chic. The Home Depot, $529, homedepot.ca.

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Style At Home Magazine
Read more in the September issue of Style at Home magazine.
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Decor

CANADA'S styleathome

Bowled over

Style At Home's supershoppers dish on the most beautiful bowls on the market. Produced by Brett Walther

BRETT WALTHER, associate design editor "Compotes ooze old-school sophistication. Even ice cream looks luxe served in a footed Finnish beauty." Iittala Glass Maribowls in sweet pink, $63-$67; The Finnish Place.

LAUREN MCPHILLIPS, senior editor "This bowl would be perfect for scooping out delightful treats at the Mad Hatter's unbirthday party!" Alice In Wonderland 3"x5.5" ceramic, $12, urban Outfitters.

ANN MARIE FAVOT, design editor "Raw outside, glazed inside, these are feminine looking, without being fussy." Mud Australia Porecelain Noodle In Ocean, Sand and Slate, $30-$36, Hollace Clunny.

MARGOT AUSTIN, senior design editor "I'm crazy for faux bois, but what I like most about this design is its subtlety — organic, but not crunchy granola." Sophie Conran for Portmeirion White Oak Porcelain, $50, Portmeiron Canada.

For the full feature, pick up Style At Home on newsstands now!

NINA TEIXEIRA PHOTO

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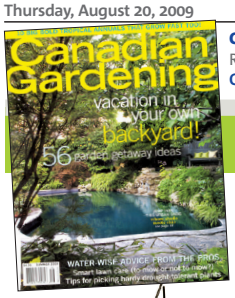

Canadian Gardening Magazine
Read more in the Summer issue of Canadian Gardening magazine.
ON SALE NOW! *canadiangardening.com*

Canadian Gardening

Outside Decor

Bold **colour**

Produced by Lara Mcgraw, photography by Edward Pond

Pink hanging basket, starting at $16.99, Home Hardware

Pink fox gloves, $26, Indoors & Out

Winstead-sunset, left, Lace-Melon Fabrics, Sunbrella

Indoor-outdoor rug, $50, Indoors & Out

Pink enamel lantern, $9, Indoors & Out

Orange-flowered canvas tote, $75, Lovell Designs

Tubby (40-litre), $14.99, Garant

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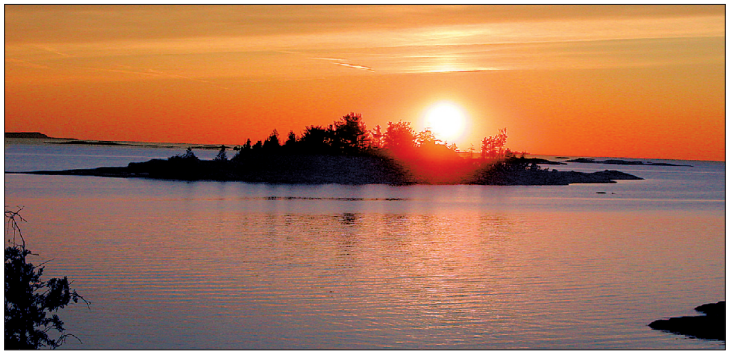
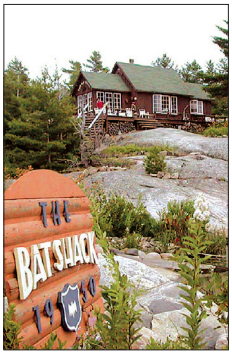
Quiet rest
Seen here is part of Graham and Brown's newest Essence collection. Inspired by the Orient, it's called Solace and it's seen here in taupe. SEE GRAHAMBROWN.COM

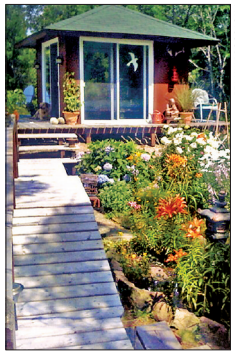
Georgian Bay dream cottage

Designer sticks to the basics with with his nothern getaway cabin

HEATHER BUCHAN
for Metro Canada







PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Seen here is the view from designer Robbie Goulden's Bat Shack, left, and the exterior of two of the structures on his property.

"Webster's defines 'cottage' as a small, humble abode," says Robbie Goulden. "And the Bat Shack is precisely that." The shack in reference is his beloved Georgian Bay cottage.

"The location is to die for," says Goulden, owner of the Toronto-based design firm Zeppelin Comunications & Design, who bought the two-acre property in 1989 when all that stood on it was a dilapidated shack filled with bats.

"It was just an old beat up cabin," he explains. "There were broken windows, one of the doors was hanging by its hinge and the chimney was about to come down." But its view over Georgian Bay from high atop the cliff sold him.

During the two decades that he's been coming to his cottage every weekend from April to November, Goulden has transformed the property into a private sanctuary. While others might have torn down the bat-infested shack, Goulden put his innate creativity to use and restored it, adding whimsy and warmth throughout with nik naks and trinkets found in flea markets and antique stores. The result: "vintage cottage decor."

"When I first came, I thought I'd build a big mega-cottage one day on the cliff. But after being at The Bat Shack for a few years, it kind of got a hold of me and I will never tear it down." Robbie Goulden

"People walk into The Bat Shack and their jaws drop because it's actually quite cluttered," he says. Aside from the main shack, which houses a kitchen, bathroom and living and dining rooms, Goulden has built two other structures for sleeping — The Love Shack and the Samurai Shack — on other parts of the property. He designed the Sumurai Shack like a Japanese tea house; three walls are sliding doors offering panoramic views of the twinkling stars.

"When I first came, I thought I'd build a big mega-cottage one day on the cliff. But after being at The Bat Shack for a few years, it kind of got a hold of me and I will never tear it down," he says. He's even put up bat houses along the upper outside of The Bat Shack, where 60 bats still reside. After all, they were there long before he was, he points out.

CONT. ON NEXT PAGE>>

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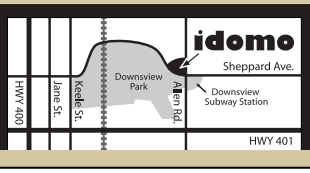

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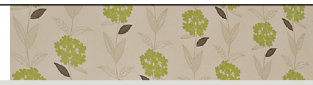
Leaving a vertical trail
Seen here is part of Graham and Brown's newest Essence collection. Inspired by a key trend in beautiful botanicals, it's called Symmetry and it's seen here in green and cream. SEE GRAHAMBROWN.COM



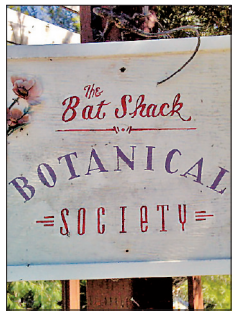
Abode boasts 'vintage cottage decor'

<<CONT. FROM LAST PAGE

Because the cottage is only accessible by water — it's a half-hour boat ride from the local marina through a labyrinth of islands — Goulden believes it is the ultimate escape. His property also backs onto crown land and is therefore protected from future development surrounding him.

In the past few years, he has embraced gardening wholeheartedly, even starting up The Bat Shack Botanical Society with his cottage neighbours. Each spring 12 of them exchange plants, followed by a garden tour of each other's properties later in the summer.

"We all pile into our boats, head off to one person's place, eat drink and then hop back into the boats to the next cottage," he says. After all, Goulden says, life at The Bat Shack is one big dinner party every night.



During his years in The Bat Shack, designer Robbie Goulden has embraced gardening wholeheartedly. He's even started The Bat Shack Botanical Society with his neighbours from other islands.

Ontario Cottage Country

- Not all cottages can be like The Bat Shack, but there are certain regions in Ontario that offer a lot for the cottage goer. Here are some and why they lure the outdoors-person in all of us.
- Muskoka: Located 90-minutes north of Toronto, the region is a playground for the rich and famous, many of whom have luxurious cottages on Lake Rosseau and Lake Joseph amid the area's pink granite rock, towering pines and numerous lakes and rivers.
- Haliburton: Located two hours north-east of Toronto, it's home to the famed Algonquin Park as well as the Haliburton Forest and Wildlife Reserve. The region also boasts seven golf courses and 100 resorts.
- Kawarthas: Located an hour east and an hour north of Toronto, it's home to the historic Trent-Severn Waterway, popular with houseboaters, and boasts over 134 lakes.

See page 39 for some rustic food recipes!

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

The Ultimate RESORT COTTAGE ON THE LAKE!

Everyone has a favourite memory of spending summers at the cottage and if you don't, you must have heard a story or two. The cottage experience is as Canadian as peameal bacon or real maple syrup and should be experienced by everyone at least once in their life. Sitting by a campfire roasting hot dogs and marshmallows, learning about "smores" and "spider dogs" is a rite of passage for any young camper.

So here I go looking into the options I have to share the cottage experiences I had with my children. What are the options and how can I afford them?

As I looked into cottages, I found it was quite simple to find something to rent but what about ownership? The thought of being able to drop everything after a long week at work and juice the old batteries up along with my kids having a safe, friendly and memorable place to spend their summers would be perfect.

What I found is that cottages can be very expensive. My grandfather had told me the story of how each of his three brothers chipped in five thousand and they got a little place with an out house on Chandos Lake up near Apsley, Ontario, but as a kid I loved that cottage. All I could find for twenty grand nowadays was a pop-up tent trailer that we would need to tow around to campgrounds. Camping wasn't going to be an option anyway as my wife's idea of roughing it was a hotel without room service. Although RV parks seemed like a good option with activities for the kids and security in the off season, I just couldn't get the picture of trailer park boys out of my head.

The cottages I liked seemed to cost as much as my home if not more, some over four hundred thousand. The more I thought about cottage ownership the more I realized it would mean two houses to maintain and the whole idea was to get away from cutting grass and fixing things so I could spend more time with my children and simply relaxing. I could afford a "Fractional Ownership" type cottage with maintenance fees. I could justify the fees as they do all the work, but one hundred thousand for something I could only use for 4 or 5 weeks wasn't the answer either, besides we can only play so many games of crazy eights before the kids would get bored.

Then I found an alternative, it's not a four hundred thousand cottage on the lake but it's not a little trailer in a campground either. They call them "Resorts Cottages" or "Park Model Homes". Just imagine a small cottage look outside and beautifully decorated condo inside for only $59,900 to $129,900. Sounds too good to be true I thought a full ownership cottage, maintenance free and activities for the kids...what's the catch.

It turns out that RV's (recreational vehicles) come in all shapes and sizes and some look just like a little house. One, two and three bedroom models that sleep up to eight comfortably and come fully furnished. You can own one in a resort that has converted itself from a trailer park to a Park Model Resort. They are upscale properties that usually have plenty of activities for everyone from heated pools and Kid's Clubs to recreation halls where they host events like wine and cheese parties or themed dances.

Woodland Estate on Lake Seymour and the world famous Trent Severn was the perfect spot for me and my family. Only 90 minutes from Toronto with great fishing and loads of activities. Woodland Estate is one of the best lakefront properties I have come across and some of the best sunsets we have ever experienced. They made owning a "Cottage" easy and cost effective...without a catch.

If you are in the market for a cottage or cottage alternative contact my friends at Woodland Estate,

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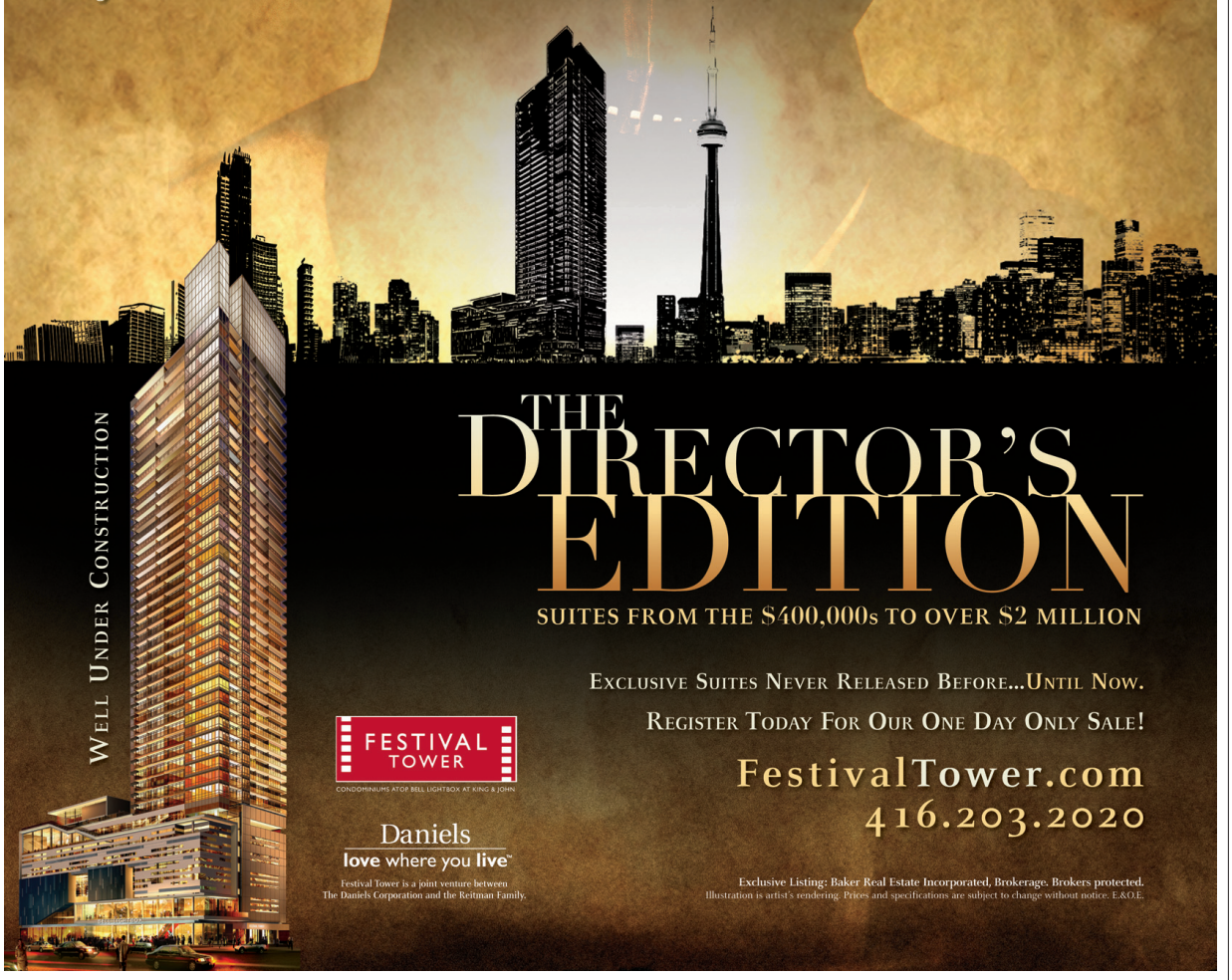

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Make sure to find out what's buried in the back

LegalMatters

Jeffrey D. Cowan
jeff@cowanlaw.ca

Q I have placed my house on the market and as it is an old house, the oil tank was originally buried in the backyard and a pipe ran to the oil fired furnace in the basement. I have since had the oil furnace replaced by a new gas burning furnace and disconnected the pipe, removed the oil furnace and repaired the hole in the wall where the pipe came in from the backyard. When speaking to my real estate agent about this occurrence she has told me I have to reveal the presence of the oil tank buried in the back yard. Isn't this opening up a can of worms?

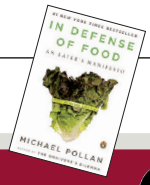
A A can of worms is an understatement. Old oil tanks buried in soil are one of the most common environmental concerns in real estate (commercial and residential). The problem is that they corrode as they become older and often leak into the soil. If you have a property with a buried oil tank, you are under a positive obligation to inform any potential buyer of this issue and it is up to them to respond.

Some purchasers may not care and simply do some form of side deal lowering the purchase price thereby leaving the problem to be dealt with by the new owner (or the person who purchases from them). However, the purchaser could easily insert environmental conditions into their offer to purchase, which may include removal of the oil tank and soil testing after this has been completed. It can become quite complex and technical when you start adding environmental conditions to a house purchase.

So, buyer beware, you never know what is buried in the backyard — a skeleton or perhaps even an old oil tank.

Jeffrey Cowan is the principal with Cowan Taylor and McGee, Barristers & Solicitors. The information in this article should not be relied upon as legal advice.

It just keeps going ...
In Defense of Food: An Eater's Manifesto by Michael Pollan remains at the top of the bestseller's list for cookbooks on Amazon.ca. Jamie's Food Revolution came in second and Gordon Ramsay's Healthy Appetite was third. METRO NEWS SERVICES



Food

The croquette (from the French croquer, "to crunch") was a French invention that gained worldwide popularity, both as a delicacy and as a fast food. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Worldwide

Croquette varieties can be found all over the world, including Mexico, Germany, Brazil, Portugal, Russia, Spain, Poland and the Philippines.

EDITOR: NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Croquettes and cobbler

Try this crunchy chicken and these warm peaches with whipped cream

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest**, on newsstands now!

Marinated Vegetable Salad

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS:
- 1 cup (250 ml) sliced broccoli and/or cauliflower flowerets
- 1 cup (250 ml) cherry tomatoes, halved
- 1 large carrot, cut into 1 1/2 x 1/2-in. (4.5-cm x 1-cm) sticks
- 1 small yellow summer squash and/or zucchini, cut into 1/2-in. (1-cm)-thick slices
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) sliced celery

For marinade:
- 2/3 cup (150 ml) vinegar
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) olive or vegetable oil
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) minced parsley or cilantro
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) sugar
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) finely chopped fresh dill or 2 tsp (10 ml) dried dill weed
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) salt
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) black pepper

METHOD:

In large heavy-duty plastic bag, combine broccoli, tomatoes, carrot, squash and celery.

For marinade: In jar with tight-fitting lid, combine vinegar, oil, parsley, sugar, dill, salt and pepper. Cover and shake well. Pour marinade over vegetables. Close bag and refrigerate (Preferably all day), turning bag occasionally.

To serve, use slotted spoon to transfer vegetables to serving bowl. Makes 4 side-dish servings.

Chicken Croquettes with Creamy Gravy

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS:
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) butter
- 1 medium-size yellow onion, finely chopped
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) minced parsley
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) all-purpose flour
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt
- 1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) ground cayenne pepper
- 1/4 cup (50 ml) chicken broth
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) 1% milk
- 1 1/2 cups (375 ml) ground cooked chicken breast
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) plain or seasoned fine dry bread crumbs
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) plain or seasoned fine dry bread crumbs
- 1 cup creamy gravy (see below)

METHOD:

In small pot, melt butter over moderate heat. Add onion and cook 5 minutes or until tender. Stir in parsley. In small bowl, combine flour, salt and cayenne pepper. Stir into mixture in pot. Cook 1 minute or until bubbly. Add chicken broth and milk. Cook, stirring constantly, until mixture starts to thicken. Cook and stir 2 minutes more or until thickened.

Pour mixture into large bowl. Stir in ground chicken and 1/3 cup (75 ml) bread crumbs. Cover and refrigerate 1 hour. With hands, shape 1/4 cup (50 ml) of mixture into 3/4-inch (2-cm) thick patty. Repeat with remaining mixture to form total of 8 patties.

Preheat oven to 375 F(190 C). Place egg in shallow dish. Place 1/2 cup (125 ml) bread crumbs on sheet of wax paper. Coat patties with bread crumbs, then dip in egg and coat again with crumbs. Arrange patties in lightly greased shallow baking pan. Bake 25 to 30 minutes or until patties are golden and heated through. Serve with Creamy Gravy.

Chicken Croquettes with Creamy Gravy

Creamy Gravy:

In small pot, melt 1 tbsp (15 ml) butter over moderate heat. Whisk in 2 tbsp (25 ml) all-purpose four, 1/2 tsp (2 ml) dried basil, 1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt and dash of pepper. Cook 1 minute or until bubbly. Add 1 cup (250 ml) 1% milk. Cook, whisking constantly, until thickened.

Peach Cobbler

Peach Cobbler

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS:
- 1 cup (250 ml) peach nectar, apricot nectar or apple juice
- 1/3 cup (75 ml) sugar
- 4 tsp (20 ml) all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) ground nutmeg
- 3 cups (750 ml) sliced and peeled peaches
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) lemon juice
- 2/3 cup (150 ml) all-purpose flour
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) old-fashioned or quick-cooking rolled oats
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) sugar
- 1 tsp (5 ml) baking powder
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) butter
- 2 tbsp (25 ml) 1% milk
- 1 large egg white

METHOD:

Preheat oven to 400°F (200 C). In medium-sized pot, whisk peach nectar, 1/3 cup (75 ml) sugar 4 tsp (20 ml) flour and 1/4 tsp (1 ml) nutmeg. Cook over moderate heat, whisking constantly, until starts to thicken. Cook and whisk 2 minutes more, until well thickened. Stir in peaches and lemon rind. Cook until bubbly. Keep warm.

In medium bowl, stir 2/3 cup (150 ml) flour, oats, 2 tbsp (25 ml) sugar, baking powder and 1/4 tsp (1 ml) nutmeg. Using pastry blender or two knives, cut butter in until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. In small bowl, combine milk and egg white. Add to oat mixture and stir until dough forms.

Spoon hot peach mixture into 9-in. (23-cm) round baking pan. Spoon dough into 4 even mounds on top of hot peach mixture. Bake 18 to 22 minutes, or until toothpick inserted into mound comes out clean. Serve with whipped cream.

Ted's quick tip

"High heat, lid open; low heat, lid closed, and don't squish the food because every time you do, you lose the juices," says barbecue expert Ted Reader as a quick tip for grilling meats. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Desserts on the grill?

Desserts cooked on the barbecue are one of the hottest trends because people want to be able to get out of the kitchen and prepare entire meals on the grill, says one of Canada's eminent chefs on the subject.

"When you cook the entire meal from appetizers to desserts you only have to dirty one kitchen and that's the one outside and you don't have to leave the grill," says Ted Reader, whose most recent cookbook is Napoleon's Everyday Gourmet Plank Grilling (Key Porter Books).

He revels in pushing the boundaries using Twinkies and Oreo cookies as ingredients in his whimsical desserts as well as fresh fruits of the season which he spikes with rum and other flavourings.

"Peaches are wonderful things to grill," he says. "With a nice firm flesh they make a superb dessert."

Sometimes Reader drizzles them with raspberries and vanilla ice cream to make "a great grilled peach melba."

Another of his favourite fruits is pineapple.

"You simply peel it, slice it into 1-inch (2.5-cm) rounds, marinate it in some rum and brown sugar and grill it," he explains. "What happens when you grill fruit is the natural sugars in the fruit start to come out. This sweetens the fruit and the juices caramelize and it creates its own little crust on the fruit."

Now at the height of their season, apricots, plums and soon pears "really grill well." Reader also likes to use bananas in a variety of desserts because they hold up well over heat.

Reader, who does barbecue demonstrations at summer festivals, fairs and other events, says one of the crowd favourites is his chocolate brownies.

"We put the whole slab on the plank, place it on the grill and layer it with peanut butter, jam, marshmallows and chocolate chips and cook until it gets all warm and gooey."

Kids will go crazy for this

Plankies recipe from Napoleon's Everyday Gourmet Plank Grilling.

Plankies

SERVES 4-8

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 regular cedar plank, soaked in water
- 8 Twinkies
- 175 ml (3/4 ml) chocolate hazelnut spread (Nutella)
- 6 Oreo cookies, smashed into chunks
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) mini marshmallows
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) chocolate toffee pieces

METHOD:

Preheat grill to medium-low heat. Arrange Twinkies on plank. Slather top of Twinkies evenly with Nutella. Sprinkle with mini Oreo chunks, marshmallows and chocolate toffee pieces.

Place plank on grill and close lid. Allow Twinkies to heat and smoke slowly for 15 minutes until marshmallows are golden brown and everything is heated through. Remove from grill and serve immediately. THE CANADIAN PRESS

The tender touch

If you don't have a meat thermometer handy, you can still test your steak's doneness using the hand touch method. The BBQ Kingpin himself, Ted Reader, dishes some of his tips:

- This method of testing for a steak is relatively easy and you will never find yourself looking for a thermometer while grilling. Shake one hand loose so that it is completely relaxed.
- Touch the soft fleshy part of your relaxed hand at the base of your thumb. This soft texture is similar to the texture of a blue rare to rare steak.
- Now touch your thumb and forefinger together and again touch the base of your thumb. This texture is similar to a medium-rare steak.

- Next, touch your thumb to your middle finger. This firmer texture is similar to the texture of a medium steak.
- Next, touch your thumb to your fourth finger. The semi-firm texture at the base of your thumb is similar to a medium-well steak.
- Lastly, touch your thumb to your pinky finger. The very firm texture at the base of your thumb is similar to a well-done steak.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Invite this cheesy grilled loaf to the party

Fresh field tomatoes and basil with double-cream Brie and tangy red onion are tucked into grilled focaccia bread for a perfect starter to a summer party.

Grilled Cream Brie Focaccia

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 400-g loaf focaccia bread, sliced in half horizontally
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) melted butter
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) Dijon mustard
- 200 g (7 oz) double-cream Brie, cut into 1-cm (1/2-inch) cubes (about 375 ml/1 1/2 cups)
- 500 ml (2 cups) seeded, chopped plum (Roma) tomatoes (about 3 medium)
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) finely chopped red onion
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) chopped fresh basil, loosely packed
- 2 ml (1/2 tsp) freshly ground pepper

METHOD:

Preheat barbecue to 230 C (450 F). Brush one side of each bread slice with melted butter and the other side with Dijon mustard. Place one bread slice mustard-side-up on centre of a sheet of aluminum foil that is twice the length of the bread.

In a medium bowl, gently combine the Brie cheese, tomatoes, red onion, basil and pepper; spread mixture evenly on bread slice. Top with second bread slice, butter side up. Fold foil around bread and seal tightly.

Place foil package directly on hot grill. With lid closed, sear for 2 minutes each side. Turn burner under bread to low, leaving other burners at medium-high. With lid closed, grill 2 to 3 minutes more per side or until bread is toasted and cheese is melting. Let stand 5 minutes before opening package. Serve immediately. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Grilled cream brie focaccia

LiquidAssets

Peter Rockwell

metronews.ca/liquidassets

Last call for grilling glory

To misquote '80s poetic powerhouse Bananarama: "It's been a cruel, cruel summer." Unless you count the hours I've stood outside trying to convince my dogs to stop barking at the neighbours; this season's uneven weather has meant that I haven't spent much time enjoying the tranquility of my backyard.

Well, with the sun beginning to set on summer I'm going to hang out on my deck and barbecue something this weekend even if hurricane whoever decides to descend on my little piece of Canada. Of course this determination allows me another crack at offering a few more red wine recommendations to wash down grilled meat.

Having visited Chile in the spring I gained a lot of respect for the carmenère grape. Tasting like the love child of merlot and cabernet sauvignon, its ripe, bright berry fruit flavour shows accents of chocolate and deep plum that's typified by the smoothly accessible **Concha y Toro Casillero del Diablo 2007 Carmenère ($12.95 - $13.97)**.

Miguel Torres' **2006 Sangre de Toro ($11.95 - $14.28)** is a spicy blend of garnacha and cariñena that layers earthy black fruits over silky tannins which makes it a perfect partner for a beefed-up entrée cooked over the coals.

Prices reflect the range across the country. Some products may not be available in all provinces.

Peter Rockwell is the everyman's wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years and travelling the globe looking for something to fill his glass and put into words.

LET'S GO TO THE EX
AUG 21 - SEPT 7

Blumer on board
This summer, celebrity chefs are dropping in on the Ontario Science Centre as part of the program Food: Sink your teeth into science. Saturday and Sunday, Bob Blumer will be hosting the weekend feature: Food Science – Unearthed. ontariosciencecentre.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Before summer turns to go

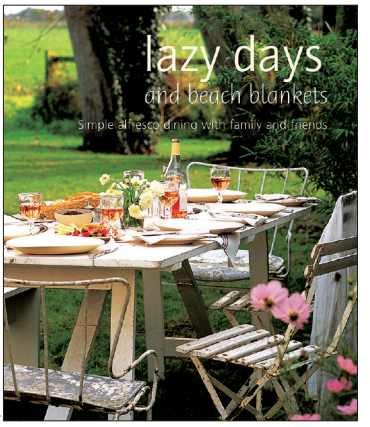
This cookbook makes sure you enjoy those Lazy Days and Beach Blankets

We all look forward to sunny weather when we can finally shake out the picnic blanket, set the barbecue a-blaze or enjoy a late supper under the stars — and we all miss it when it's gone.

Lazy Days and Beach Blankets celebrates the joy of eating alfresco with friends and provides inspiration with evocative images of barbecue scenes, lunches on a Mediterranean terrace and tables beautifully set for dinner in the balmy night air.

There are more than 100 recipes and ideas for dining alfresco with friends — from picnic food and summer salads, to barbecues, informal lunches, cool drinks on the terrace and dinner under the stars.

Metro picked up this delightfully light meal from Lazy Days and Beach Blankets (Ryland Peters & Small, $34.95, 2009; rylandpeters.com):



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Chicken Panini with Roasted Bell Pepper and Arugula Aioli and Orange and Lemon Bake with Minted Yogurt, both recipes from Lazy Days and Beach Blankets (Ryland Peters & Small.)

See cottage decor on pages 31, 34, 35

Chicken Panini with Roasted Bell Pepper and Arugula Aioli

Panini, which is Italian for toasted sandwiches, can be prepared ahead of time, then cooked just before you want to serve them. The combination of grilled peppers, tender chicken, and a delicious arugula aioli is definitely hard to beat.

SERVES 4

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 red bell peppers, left whole
- 4 small focaccia or Turkish rolls, halved
- 2 large, cooked chicken breasts, shredded
- a small handful of baby spinach

Arugula aioli:

- 1 egg yolk
- 1 tsp white wine vinegar
- a bunch of arugula, about 2 oz., coarsely chopped
- 1 garlic clove, crushed
- 2/3 cup olive oil
- sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

METHOD:

Preheat the grill, then cook the bell peppers over hot coals or under a preheated broiler for about 20 minutes until charred all over. Put into a plastic bag and let cool. Peel off the skin and discard the seeds, then cut the flesh into strips.

To make the aioli, put the egg yolk, vinegar, and a little salt and pepper into a food processor and blend briefly until frothy. Add the arugula and garlic and pulse for 30 seconds. With the machine still running, gradually pour in the olive oil until the sauce is thickened and speckled with vivid green. Taste and adjust the seasoning.

Spread a little of the arugula aioli onto the cut sides of each roll and fill the rolls with the chicken, pepper strips, and spinach leaves. Press the halves together.

Preheat the flat plate on the grill and cook the panini over low heat for 4-5 minutes, then, using tongs, flip over and cook the other side for a further 5 minutes until toasted. If you don't have a flat plate, cook on a cast-iron griddle, either on the grill, or on the stove. Serve hot.

Orange and Lemon Bake with Minted Yogurt

This is simply a sublime dessert — sponge cake, coconut, ground almonds, and citrus fruits.

SERVES 8

INGREDIENTS:

- 4 eggs
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 ¼ cups dried unsweetened shredded coconut
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup ground almonds
- grated zest and freshly squeezed juice of 2 unwaxed lemons
- grated zest and juice of 2 oranges
- ½ cup milk
- 1/3 cup self-rising flour

Minted yogurt:

- 1 cup plain yogurt
- a bunch of mint, finely chopped
- a cake pan, 8 inches in diameter, buttered

METHOD:

Preheat the oven to 350 F.

Put the eggs, sugar, coconut, butter, ground almonds, lemon and orange zest and juice, milk, and flour into a food processor and process for 1 minute until blended. Transfer the mixture to the buttered pan and bake in the preheated oven for 45 minutes until golden brown. Remove from the oven and let cool.

Put the yogurt into a bowl and add the mint. Mix well and serve spooned over the bake.

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The three sippers
Ideally, each dish in a Chinese dinner should be served separately with a different wine, with water and green tea on hand to cleanse and refresh the palate between courses. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Local **Savour**

The Ceili Cottage
1301 Queen St. East
416-406-1301
ceilicottage.com
Mac and cheese, $8
Can't get to the cottage this summer? This quaint stop will charm you to death with its petite dining room set to a rustic glow and its spacious, white, picnic-table patio outside. It feels like a hangout for your Irish grandpa but it's suprisingly packed with a young crowd. A dessert menu that features Cookies and milk ($6) is just too darn cute.

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Pairing wines with Chinese

The typical path of a Chinese formal dinner goes something like this: Meat, fish, soup, fish, meat, fish.

With every dish, complementary opposites collide in the yin-yang tensions of sweet and sour, soft and crunchy or hot and cold.

Such pleasing fusions require equally complex cooking processes.

That's why many diners feasting the Chinese way feel befuddled by the flurry of flavours and opt for a pricey Bordeaux wine.

The reasoning goes thus, wine experts say: An expensive wine won't necessarily complement the Peking duck or shark fin soup, but it does match my Canali shoes and the Jag out back.

This status-oriented approach to wine and Chinese food is set to change, if a trio of Canadian epicures have their way.

"Far be it from us to say a bottle of grape Bordeaux isn't great," says Henry Wu, president of Metropolitan Hotels and Toronto and Vancouver restaurants including Lai Wah Heen and Lai Toh Heen.

AMY FULLER/THE CANADIAN PRESS

At the Lai Toh Heen restaurant in Toronto, the senior chef for Metropolitan Hotels, Patrick Lin, displays a steamed whole black bass with scallions and coriander sprigs in a light soy blend. This traditional Cantonese dish goes well with Pouilly Fuisse, Bouchard Pere & Fils, Burgundy 2007.

"We've got nothing against them, but they may not be the best match. That's the point. Wine pairing is a fun way to spice up a dinner."

With Tony Aspler, wine educator and author, and Patrick Lin, senior chef at Metropolitan Hotels, Wu embarked on a series of eight-course dinners over four nights last year to see what wines work best with traditional Cantonese fare.

Roger Dagorn, master sommelier and maitre d'hotel at New York City's Chanterelle restaurant, contributed his expertise to the study later on. The team presented their findings at the 2008 conference of the James Beard Association, a culinary appreciation society.

Lin joined a roster of chefs including Toronto's Terrence Chan, New York's Susur Lee and others from Shanghai, Las Vegas, Hong Kong and Philadelphia to prepare the gala dinner.

Now, nine months later, Lin shows unflagging enthusiasm for the project. At the Lai Toh Heen restaurant in Toronto, he brandishes a glistening Peking Duck on a platter as Aspler recommends 2006 Pinot Noir from the Scott Cellars in Santa Barbara.

The sequence and composition of Western dishes makes wine matching straightforward: Begin with white, continue with reds of increasing weight and concentration and finish with a dessert wine.

To keep costs down, choose from wines that work well with a variety of Chinese dishes:

Medium dry Vouvray or Viognier from the Rhone; Riesling Kabinett or Spatlese Trocken; Unoaked Chardonnay (Chablis); White Rhone wines; Beaujolais Crus from warm vintages like 2005; Pinot Noir from New Zealand or Oregon. If you must have only one wine, choose champagne. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Project Runway returns
Following a 10-month hiatus, Project Runway returns to television tonight. The sixth season of the popular fashion design contest comes back with a three-hour time slot on Lifetime Television. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Style

Star power purses

Just because you're not walking the red carpet doesn't mean you can't look the part. Step out in style during this year's Toronto International Film Festival with the new Town Shoes Red Carpet collection. It features three distinct leather and vegan purses that retail between $89.95 and $148 (the original designer versions are around $2,740). Visit townshoes.com for a store near you. METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Maxi-mize

Time to snap a maxi dress off the sales rack

JANINE FALCON
for Metro Canada

If you think you're too late to try the airy maxi dress, don't worry — summer was late too.

In fact, now's the time to pick one up if you don't already have one; end-of-season sales have a lot to offer at great prices. And you don't have to be genetically blessed with a model figure to wear one.

"Look for something that skims your figure rather than clings," advises style expert Afiya Francisco of TheStyleHouse.ca. If you're a little tummy conscious, an empire waist works nicely in your favour because it helps conceal less-than-taut abs.

If you have more of an apple body shape, look for a style with minimal gathers where the waistband meets the skirt, and make sure the skirt isn't too full.

Voluminous skirts are also a "don't" if you're petite, Francisco adds.

If you have a generous bustline, or wear size 12 or better, shun spaghetti straps and strapless versions, which will make you look heavier than you are. Instead look for dresses with wider straps or halter necklines; they'll provide a little support and more flattering proportions.

"Look for something that skims your figure rather than clings." Afiya Francisco, TheStyleHouse.ca

When it comes to stepping out in your maxi dress, "gladiator sandals and oversized sunglasses are ideal for day," according to Francisco. Simplicity is key when it comes to accessories, so think bangles or dangly earrings or a statement necklace. A slouchy tote also strikes the casual note.

For evening, Francisco suggests a clutch and sandals with heels to dress things up.

An unfussy beauty look is best with the maxi-dress trend. New York-based Canadian celeb hair stylist Harry Josh points to Cameron Diaz and Helena Christiansen as examples of today's uncomplicated approach.

According to Josh, a consultant for John Frieda hair care, a shoulder-length cut with lots of layers is key. Through damp hair, distribute mousse such as Frizz Ease Take Charge Style Managing Mousse.

Once hair is dry, add some random waves with a one-inch pro curling iron if you want more texture. With blowdryer and round brush, smooth hair around the face and allow a soft sweep across the forehead. "It's sexy when women shake hair out of the way to see," says Josh. Back-comb a little at the crown for lift and finish with Frizz Ease Moisture Barrier firm-hold flexible hair spray.

Right: Banana Republic maxi dress, $124; Banana Republic stores

Last chance: how to get the look

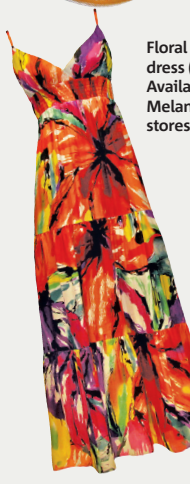
Kensie Katie sunglasses ($35). Available at The Bay and select Shoppers Drug Mart Beauty Boutiques.

Silpada Hammered sterling silver bangle ($132). Available at silpada.ca.

Silpada rosewood and sterling silver bangle ($95); silpada.ca

Silpada Hammered sterling silver earrings ($58); silpada.ca.

Browns sandals ($98); brownsshoes.com



Floral maxi dress ($159.99). Available at Melanie Lyne stores.

Joe Fresh maxi dress ($29). Available at Loblaws and SuperStores; joe.ca.

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In the bag

Size matters when it comes to reusable shopping totes

JANINE FALCON
for Metro Canada

TREND Re-useable shopping bags from the grocery store work best when you remember to take them from your kitchen to the car to the store. But how many times have you made an unscheduled stop and mentally cursed because the six bags you've accumulated are at home while you're at the checkout? And if you depend on public transport, an impulse or last-minute stop after work means spending a nickel on plastic because you didn't plan to have those grocery bags on hand.

Nylon shopping totes that fold up small enough to keep in your purse are the growing-in-popularity solution to forgotten bags. Aside from being super lightweight, they're strong enough to carry weighty items like milk and laundry detergent in the same load and come in a range of express-yourself colours and patterns.

Top options include MyTagAlongs, Envirosax and Baggu totes, which have little snap-closure straps like umbrellas do to keep them folded neatly; Flip & Tumble 24/7 bags which scrunch down into nifty little balls; and, from clothing retailer Reitmans, roomy bags that fold into compact, Kleenex-package size (they've proved so popular that Toronto's Eaton Centre location regularly sells out of them).

Another plus to purse-friendly nylon shopping bags is easy cleaning: just throw 'em into a mesh laundry bag and in with your cold-water wash.

Above: Baggu tote ($8 US); available at info@baggubag.com.

Right: Graphic shopping bags ($8); kitchenstuffplus.com.

MyTagAlongs tote ($8), below; mytagalongs.com for retailers.

Above: Flip & Tumble 24/7 tote ($12 US); available at flipandtumble.com.

Left: Reitmans tote ($3); Reitmans stores across Canada.

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Vanity Fair exhibit
The Royal Ontario Musesum will present Vanity Fair Portraits: Photographs 1913-2008 from Sept. 26, 2009 to Jan. 3, 2010. METRO NEWS SERVICES

5 Fashion dilemmas answered

Who are you wearing? What's the latest trend? Where am I wearing this? Relevant questions, certainly. But of all the dilemmas facing the modern-day fashion consumer, it's the "when's" that turn usually confident, self-assured people into self-conscious ditherers.

1. When should I adopt a trend? "Before the curve. If you see it on anyone from The Hills or Britney Spears or featured in InStyle or any of those tabloids, forget it. It's so done. Unless of course, it's on Rihanna or Gwen Stefani, who are always ahead of the pack." — Georgia Groom, wardrobe stylist.

2. At what age should a woman cut her hair short? "It depends on the individual, the type of hair, whether it changes with age, her career and lifestyle. The length of hair is not dictated by age. That's so old school." — Ivan Gibski, hairstylist and director of Flaunt Boutique.

3. When is it too late (or too early) to wear white? Do Labour Day rules apply? "That rule is meant to be broken. Chanel made the white tweed suit a perennial year-round. Also just look at the white shirt or ski wear: White today is seasonless." — Barbara Atkin, vice-president of fashion direction, Holt Renfrew.

4. When should a man buy his first good suit? "Men shouldn't wait until there's an occasion like a wedding or a prom. They should have one in their closet. The day they decide they want to make a good impression is the day they should buy a good suit." — Melissa Austria, owner of Gotstyle menswear boutique.

5. When is a girl old enough to wear makeup? "Whenever she is comfortable and expresses an interest. My daughter and her friends in high school experiment mostly with a little lipgloss, eyeliner and concealer when they get breakouts." — Susie Sheffman, fashion director of Fashion magazine.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt

Exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

Avril rocks style

• Canadian singer-songwriter Avril Lavigne unveiled her punk-inspired Abbey Dawn clothing line this week at downtown Toronto's Boathouse store (330 Yonge St.). Here's a sampling of Avril's rockn' collection:

Abbey Dawn Plaid Shirt ($39.99)

Abbey Dawn Bangles ($14.99)

Abbey Dawn Hoody ($59.99)

Abbey Dawn Silver Stud Belt ($24.99)

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Back To School

Go peanut-free

This year, President's Choice has introduced a slew of peanut-free products, including these Soft and Chewy Raisin Oatmeal Cookies ($3.99). For more, go to pc.ca.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

Ahead of the class

JANINE FALCON
for Metro Canada

Besides undermining your standout personality, sloppy sweats encourage that "freshman 20," the annual bloat that afflicts more than first-year kids. Do yourself a style favour: Live campus life like the paparazzi is around the corner and you're an off-duty celeb.

"Models like Lara Stone and Erin Wasson have mastered the look — think ripped jeans, leather moto jackets and combat boots — while 'it girls' Kate Bosworth, Alexa Chung and Rachel Bilson know how to look fab even at the airport, in fedoras, scarves, boyfriend jeans and long vests," says style hog.com editor and stylist Julia Seidl, who works with CosmoTV's Oh So Cosmo crew.

Here are some tips on what you need to up your class level this fall:

These Parasuco 8-Halle stretch skinny jeans, top, are $110 at parasuco.com, while the Levis 501 Boyfriend Jeans Timeless Wash retail for $98.

Denim

If any jeans are designed for sitting in a three-hour lecture, the boyfriend jeans are it. Fans of a closer fit can find comfort, too, with denim like Canadian brand Parasuco's all-directions-stretch 8-Halle skinny jeans. Seidl says distressed skinnies are also hot — "anything with well-placed holes, frays, even doodles" — and washes from pale grey to acid to light blue to almost black.

Jackets

The moto jacket shares the fashion spotlight with oversized, slightly baggy boyfriend blazers. "Wear either one with skinny jeans, leggings, big boots or ballet flats," says Seidl. "A plain white tee, long single pendant necklace and a slouchy toque completes the outfit."

Accessorize your outfit with scarves ($15 each at Reitmans), left, a pendant necklace ($12 at Smart Set) and a Beach Bucket Bag in Rustler Leather ($248 at Roots), below.

Gap Always Skinny Jeans, $79.50, and denim jacket, $69.50.

Guy style

Fellows, if you must wear golf shirts, go for one with dash, like the Trip golf shirt from hot Canadian company Quagmire. Seidl's top guy choices are a simple V-neck white tee, a grey V-neck or shawl-collar cardigan, slim, skinny or straight-leg jeans, plus shirts in stripes or plaid with rolled-up sleeves. Good lookin' shoes help, too.

Clockwise from top: Boyfriend blazer by Sears Attitude, $89.99; classic men's cardigan by Joe Fresh, $29; and Men's Trip Golf Shirt by Quagmire, $75.

Boots and booties

"Thigh-high leather boots were all over the fall's catwalks, but most students can't shell out $500," says Seidl, who is all about runway fashion on a budget. Instead go for flat, leather knee-high boots, granny ankle boots that are kicking it big with the likes of Sienna Miller and Zoe Cravit, and all-buckled-up motorcycle boots. "High-heeled booties, open or closed toe, can take your outfit from class to a night out, too," she says.

Accessories

A good quality, honking big handbag that can double as a bookbag is a must. And stock up on chunky chokers, bib necklaces, cocktail rings, hats, scarves and belts, all for daytime as well as night. "Never leave the house without at least two accessories," says Seidl.

"They're the cheapest and easiest way to make any outfit more current," she adds.

Kids' fashion a blast from the past

NOELLE MUNARETTO
for Metro Canada

Before the classroom bells toll next month, parents will be scouring the stores in search of the latest back-to-school gear.

Fashion experts reveal certain styles will reign supreme in the schoolyard, and offer their tips for putting together your child's updated wardrobe.

"Kids often get really excited about what they are going to wear for the first day back at school, so it's a key time to have all of the latest trends available," said Karen Richter, H&M Canada's showroom manager.

The rock 'n' roll look is in this season, so why not try this graphic T-shirt and plaid skirt ensemble? Both are available at the Bay.

For those just starting to pick out pieces, Richter said it's important to keep layering in mind.

"This way kids stay warm, but can also easily shed pieces once inside," she said.

Prior to venturing into the malls, take stock of what your kids have and create a shopping list.

Suzanne Timmins, fashion director for the Hudson's Bay Company, said there are certain back-to-school must-haves for boys and girls.

"It's all that Rock Band style, punk rock, and grunge mixed with jeans that are slimmer and slimmer," said Timmins of boys' trends. "It's Jonas Brothers style. Very rock 'n' rolla."

That means graphic-printed tees, grey-black skinny jeans, the modern plaid shirt, 1980s-influenced colours, and high-top sneakers are all on the top of the list for guys.

This leather jacket is available at H&M (hm.com).

For girls, Timmins said the 1980s trends continue.

"Key for all girl age groups are leggings," said Timmins. "They can be layered under skirts and T-shirts."

Also popular for girls are skinny jeans in juicy-toned bright colours, long cardigans, hoodies, and preppy accessories like ribbon headbands.

Even today's fashion-conscious tweens are taking back-to-school style cues from upper years.

"Tweens often like to dress more like their older siblings, so customers will find that many styles from our adult department have trickled down into the kids department," said Richter. "Leather motorcycle jackets, distressed denim and graphic rock tees have been quite popular."

Frances Gunn, an assistant professor at Ryerson University's Ted Rogers School of Retail Management, said that in this year's economy, parents are more likely to spend conservatively when it comes to back-to-school shopping.

On the upside, he said parents looking to stay on a back-to-school budget will notice retailers giving them a break.

"You'll probably be looking later in the season for the best deals," he said.

High-top canvas sneakers, $17.50 each at Old Navy (oldnavy.ca).

ON HER: Short-sleeve cardigan, $16.99; floral print shirt, $14.99; long sleeve T-shirt, $12.99; boyfriend jeans, $24.99; designer tattoo print sneakers, $44.99; and reversible polka dot scarf, $24.99.
ON HIM: Buffalo plaid fleece-lined hoodie, $69.99; graphic T-shirt, $19.99; grey jean with contrast stitching, $79.99; and leather skate shoes, $69.99. All at Winners.

THE HAT: A gift from my friend's closet. Sometimes he has better style than I do.

THE JACKET: I got this from a thrift shop on Queen Street when I was 16. Best five bucks I ever spent.

THE TANK: Another thrift store special. It's one of my staples.

THE NECKLACE: When it comes to accessories, I say go big or go home.

THE PHONE: The Samsung Link™ from Bell. It's easy to use and it matches my style. Awesome.

THE JEANS: I love these jeans. The colour is awesome and I can still bust a move in them.

THE SHOES: There are some things I just can't resist. Shoes are one of them. These were so hot I had to have them.

PREETI, Toronto

PREETI'S LOOK: Urban retro. This fashion daredevil doesn't do anything by halves. She loves primary colours, music and dancing, and you can see it in her style. She's a self-proclaimed "feminine tomboy." Baggy jeans with heels? She'll go there. She laughed in the face of the boy who asked why she doesn't wear more dresses, and flatly refuses to work anywhere with a dress code.

Stores eye star power

Summer Johnson's back-to-school wardrobe includes shiny wet-looking leggings, a tie-dye camisole and basic tees — all part of a new collection by Miley Cyrus and designer Max Azria at Walmart.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/WALMART

Miley Cyrus and Max Azria have a clothing line at Walmart.

Stores are hoping a touch of star quality will inspire back-to-school shoppers — and their parents — to look beyond basics and seek out clothing lines with ties to celebrity actors and singers, from clean-cut Disney shows to the racier Gossip Girl.

Johnson, a 22-year-old college student from suburban St. Louis, was drawn to the Cyrus collection's rock-star edge and under-$20 prices, but the star power didn't hurt.

"Celebrities are great, but I go toward a celebrity line because they're reading up on fashion, teaming up with a good designer," she said. "They know a thing or two about fashion. They're our fashion template."

And the templates abound. A "Jonas" line, inspired by the television show featuring the Jonas Brothers, mixes prep school styles with a rocker twist. A second Disney line based on the show Wizards of Waverly Place is being billed as a "boho chic" collection including tunic-length tops with print scarves and miniskirts that draw inspiration from the show's Alex Russo character, who happens to be played by Selena Gomez, the newly named Teen Choice red-carpet fashion icon.

But star power alone won't sustain a successful clothing line.

"I've seen the peaks and valleys of it," said Tina Knowles, the mother of singer and actress Beyonce. Tina Knowles serves as creative director for Dereon, a clothing line that draws from her famous daughter's style. "The celebrity being attached is a plus, but the clothes have to be good quality," she said.

Customers respond to Beyonce, but they come back when they like the fit, style and value, Knowles said.

This fall, the Dereon line includes a Sasha Fierce collection with some back-to-school looks inspired by Beyonce's tougher, alter-ego character.

Another line that's new for back-to-school is "Mad Style for True Jackson," designed by Jane Siskin, perhaps best known for her work on 7 for All Mankind's famously fitting jeans. The "Mad Style" clothes at Walmart draw from Nickelodeon's popular tween show, True Jackson, VP, which stars young actress Keke Palmer, whose character lands a dream job as a vice-president at a fashion company.

"The thing that excited me was to bring fashion to a tween customer in a collection and in a way that's already styled," Siskin said. A grey V-neck dress, for instance, includes a built-in plaid shirt underneath and a black-patent belt with silver charms hanging from it for $12. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clean hands critical: Experts

When Karen Shein sends her two children off to elementary school in a few weeks, they will be packing more than just the usual back-to-class gear.

Tucked into their school bags will be alcohol-based hand sanitizer, little bottles of insurance against the onslaught of germs they are sure to encounter as kids once again gather en masse for the annual September rite of passage.

And this fall, with a surge in cases of influenza A (H1N1), also known as swine flu, possibly in the offing, keeping hands clean could be more critical than ever to prevent children getting sick or spreading the virus to others.

"With the pandemic," says Dr. Bonnie Henry of the B.C. Centre for Disease Control, "we've been saying it's really important this year more than others, even, for you to have the ability for children to wash their hands."

But while public health officials press home the message that good hand hygiene is one of the best ways to beat this bug, not all schools are equipped to provide the basics needed.

Washing hands at school is even more important this year due to the expected H1N1 flu pandemic, experts say.

"I've taught the kids how to wash their hands properly and also how to use a paper towel to shut off the tap and exit the washroom after their hands have been cleaned," Shein says.

But there's a problem: while washrooms in their Toronto school are equipped with soap dispensers, there are no paper towels, she says.

Years of budget restraints have forced many Canadian schools to trim expenses — and often that has meant stripping items like costly paper towels.

Henry, director of Public Health Emergency Management at the BCCD, says finding enough resources is an issue for schools all across the country.

"Many schools now share a cleaning service between a number of schools and they don't have somebody that's dedicated to their own facility," she says.

Chris Broadbent, manager of health and safety for the Toronto District School Board, agrees cost and vandalism are concerns when it comes to stocking washrooms in its 560 elementary and secondary schools.

While students aren't encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer, schools can order it from the board's distribution warehouse, Broadbent says.

"With H1N1, a lot of schools took the precaution of providing one for every classroom, but it's under the control of the teacher, obviously," he says. "And it's there to support handwashing, not as an alternative." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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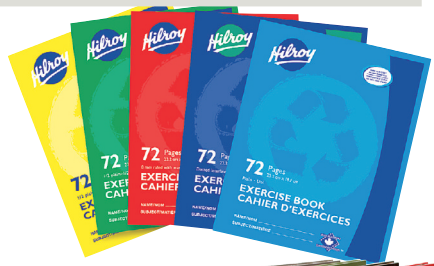
A healthy snack
Summer Fresh has partnered with Nickelodeon to create snacks, like this Mini Dipper package ($3.99) featuring SpongeBob SquarePants, which contains four hummus or vegetable dips. At all major grocery stores. METRO NEWS SERVICES

A selection from the Pistachio notebook collection, which is available at Indigo (indigo.ca). Prices range from $5.99-$9.99.



These Hilroy exercise books ($0.95 each) are made with recycled paper. The Enviro-Plus binders, right, come in many colours ($5.99 each). For store locations, go to hilroy.ca.

Eco-friendly school supplies abound

KATHY BUCKWORTH
for Metro Canada

Kids are usually less than thrilled about back-to-school shopping, but this year mine were excited when they saw the many new environmentally friendly products to fill their backpacks with.

Is it the appeal of saving trees and using recyclable newspapers? Somewhat. Most kids today know how important it is to be good to the environment, but let's face it, kids are kids, and they like things on an aesthetic level as well.

"Smell this!" yelled seven-year-old Nicholas, as he thrust out one of 10 "Gourmet Scented Pencils" (or "smencils"). Made from 100 per cent recycled newspaper, this is just one of the products found at Indigo. Their Pistachio line-up includes notebooks made with 100 per cent post-consumer recycled products, and even staple-free staplers. The bright colours and designs on the books instantly appealed to 17-year-old Victoria, who nabbed a couple.

These staple-free staplers, which are available at Indigo (indigo.ca) for $6.99 each, also come in orange, green, clear and silver.

"Little changes can make a big difference for the environment, and it's important for consumers to know their options and understand the environmental impact of the products they're selecting during the busy back to school shopping season," said Michelle White, director of sustainability at Indigo.

Hilroy offers notebooks as well as Recycled Ruled Sheets, in their Enviro-Plus line.

"Hilroy's eco-friendly products give students the chance to start making a difference with small changes," says Samantha Hindmarch, director of marketing, Hilroy. "Instead of buying regular refill paper, this back to school season students can easily pick up the recycled refill paper. Hilroy also has a fun website to help teach kids about the importance of going green. Visit hilroy.ca/spreadtheword.

These Wescott KleenEarth scissors ($2.49) and Papermate Earth Write premium pencils ($3.49 for a 10-pack),are available at Staples.

At Staples, there are biodegradable folders, bamboo USB keys, pencils made from recycled cedar, and scissors with handles made with 70 per cent recycled plastic. And because what the school supplies are being put into is just as important as what's being put into the school supplies, Staples has a terrific selection of totes, bags, and backpacks.

"The big problem with back-to-school stuff is PVC," says Leslie Garrett, author of The Virtuous Consumer. "PVC is an environmental blight from manufacture right through to disposal. (It can't be recycled and continues to leech contaminants into landfill for years.)

"Try and go for more 'natural' fabrics — you can find lots of options for lunchbags and backpacks," Garrett suggests.

With so many options available, the only decision the kids will have to make is where to shop first — and who gets the window seat on the school bus.

The bamboo 4GB USB key, top, is $24.95 at Staples (staples.ca). The scented pencils, right, are $14.99 at Indigo (indigo.ca).

Planning key to saving during the year: Expert

When money gets tight, how do students cope? According to a new poll from RBC, in the latest year, 61 per cent spent less on food, 57 per cent spent less on alcohol, 23 per cent didn't buy all the books they needed, and 11 per cent paid their tuition late.

When money gets tight, students spend less on food, a new poll says.

"Managing your money can lead to tough, and in some cases troubling, decisions," says Kavita Joshi, director of student markets at RBC.

"Students need to take care of the themselves physically, academically and socially while in school. There are ways to do it without breaking the bank."
Kavita Joshi, director of student markets, RBC

"Students need to take care of themselves physically, academically and socially while in school. There are ways to do it without breaking the bank."

So how can students cut back without compromising? By planning, says Joshi.

"It costs money when you don't plan," she says. "You end up doing things like grabbing the nearest meal because you didn't take lunch to school. It might be good and fast, but it's not necessarily cheap."

Certain student expenses are fixed. But it's discretionary spending that drives up costs, says Joshi, and can lead to drastic measures. This is where students need to plan the most.

"Students can be frugal, but it takes forethought, whether planning your meals, buying second-hand books, or searching for fun and funky clothes or furnishings at thrift stores," Joshi says.

For help on evaluating student expenses and adjusting spending, Joshi recommends using a budget calculator.

Planning is more than looking for bargains. It also means making choices about how and where you spend, so that you do have something left over — not just for essentials but for your social life, an important part of being a student.

"When you spend time planning," says Joshi, "you can plan to spend."

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GET this!
This GET Printed Backpack ($14.99 at Shoppers Drug Mart) includes a pocket with headphones port and a side mesh bottle holder. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Tech goodies for every student

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Eyes and ears up here! Class is creeping closer so make sure you're prepared with the right tech goodies to get you started (or at least enjoy the final waning days of summer).

Artistic and smart

With advanced auto-focus tracking to keep moving objects sharp, a super-wide-angle zoom lens and creative in-camera filters, the **Olympus FE series** offers some feature-loaded cameras. The three cameras in the series, available in a variety of pastel colours and ranging in price from $129.99-$189.99, offer the same 12-megapixel capability and a powerful Intelligent Auto setting. The function adjusts for shadows and decides which scene setting to use, doing the hard thinking for you and letting you focus instead on getting great shots. Fun "Magic Filters" let you take distinctive shots quickly that simulate a fish-eye lens effect, the look of a pinhole camera, wedding-ready photos with softened edges or even Warhol-esque pop art-style photos with enhanced, saturated colours — perfect for a hip Facebook profile pic.

Sports warrior

Both waterproof and sandproof, the **Fuji Z33WP Waterproof Whiz** 10-megapixel camera is the perfect beach buddy for capturing the last fun moments of summer. The camera, which retails for $229.99, comes in four colours: green, pink, blue and black. Built-in face detection technology keeps focus sharp in group shots and Intelligent Scene Recognition ensures the best possible pictures no matter what kind of light you shoot in. A Blog Mode also offers an optimal way to quickly shoot and upload photos to sites like Twitter and Facebook, meaning it's never been easier than ever to reveal to the online world just how out-of-shape (and unaware of it) your friends are.

Touch or type

The **Motorola Rival A455** features two seemingly contradictory, yet highly convenient, features: a sliding faceplate that reveals a full-stocked QWERTY keyboard for texting, and a touch-sensitive screen for quick operation. It's a snazzy phone that features all of the regular trappings — 2 megapixel camera, MP3 player and support for instant messaging and online email. Available on the Telus network for $99.99 with a three-year contract, the phone is a solid choice that lies snugly between touch-only iPhones or type-only BlackBerrys.

No signal? No problem

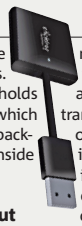
Since weak signals and per-minute charges have been the bane of all cheapskates and travellers since the invention of the cellphone, the **Nokia 7510** flip-phone definitely goes against the tide. Available on for $49.99 with a three-year contract at Rogers Wireless, this Wi-Fi enabled phone features the ability to talk through a wireless Internet hotspot (via UMA technology) instead of on the regular network — meaning you could chat for free, even without a cellphone signal, as long as you had wireless Internet access nearby. Students will love the fact that the phone can take a call on their wireless connection in their dorm room and seamlessly switch to the GSM network when they walk outside without dropping the call.

Not to be missed...

Technology always finds ways to give you new capabilities you never knew you needed and this back-to-school season is no exception.

• Small pictures can say big things

Printing from the palm of your hand can be both fun and practical with the **Wasabi Ultramobile Photo Printer** (starts at $189, but is currently available for $99 at dell.ca). This printer is a neat little wonder that definitely surprises with its usability and design. Small enough to hold in one hand, the Wasabi can connect to your mobile phone or other wireless devices through Bluetooth or a regular USB connection. The printers use no ink at all, instead printing two-by three-inch photos on special ZINK paper, which has colour crystals embedded into it that are heated by the printer to create photos. The diminutive printer holds up to 12 ZINK sheets, which come on an adhesive backing, ready for sticking inside lockers or onto binders.



• Data transfer without all the mumbo-jumbo

Lovers of the iPod and iPhone might just fall in love with the cute, convenient little **Clickfree Transformer SE** ($49.99-$79.99 at clickfree.com). It connects to your iPod or iPhone through the USB connection and lets you use the massive leftover storage space on your device or transfer new music files without risking deleting any existing files, all without having to connect through a computer or use any special software. It also backs up your MP3 and data files on your iPhone or iPod with ease and can even be used to extract data should your device (or its battery) decide to head to tech-heaven a little too soon. RAFAEL BRUSILOW/ FOR METRO CANADA

Computers lighter, more powerful

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

With the world of computing racing from portable to ultraportable, this year's back-to-school laptop options are lighter, skinnier and more powerful than ever before.

Tough on falls, not the environment

For the eco-conscious or carry-careless, **Toshiba** offers some intriguing possibilities with its **Satellite series** of notebooks (ranging in price from $699 to $1,899). Each notebook comes with a built-in Eco Button and Eco Utility, which monitors power savings and shows you how much power you are using — and how much you could save by being more efficient. Clumsy users or those with rough-and-tumble job settings will also appreciate the new 3D accelerometer packed into each Satellite, which automatically senses free falls, shocks or harsh vibrations, protecting hard drive data from destruction or damage. Note that this doesn't mean you should use your laptop as a battering weapon in a pinch ... but you could.

The Toshiba Satellite series of notebooks range in price from $699 to $1,899.

Small, but classy

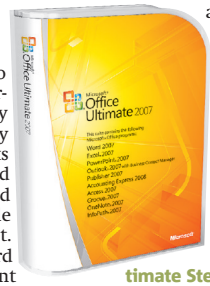
Students and coffee-shop hipsters have taken to ultra-portable netbooks like moths to a flame in recent months, and the **Toshiba NB200** (which costs between $429 and $479) is certainly a bright light. Featuring a stylish composite-metal-looking design (or straight black, if you prefer), neatly separated keys for easier typing and a 9-cell battery (good for up to nine hours of life), the NB200 is at the higher end of the netbook price range but definitely feels like it's worth it. It also includes an accelerometer sensor to protect the hard drive in case of falls or vibrations. The screen is the now-standard 10.1-inch size and the specs are legit for what you'd expect from a small but mighty netbook.

Fun and practical

Built for the classroom, the **Dell Latitude 2100** (starts at $652) offers a rubberized design that is easier to carry and use safely as well as an optional touch-screen, making it a perfect tool for student collaboration or special education teaching, while also proving useful for more business-minded older users, who have given the 2100 some very good reviews as well. The compact design and reasonable specs have made the machine a well-deserved hit — now if only you could convince your child to let you sneak it away for a game of Minesweeper or three.

The Dell Latitude 2100, which starts at $652, comes in a variety of colours. The Toshiba NB200, at left, costs between $429 and $479.

Spunky, affordable



True-to-form, Dell's entry into the netbook market, the sprightly **Mini 10**, is thrifty in price (it starts at $415), loaded with features and a scrappy little fighter to boot. With a keyboard that is 92 per cent of normal size, a nice thin profile, optional 6-cell battery and dedicated HDMI port, Dell has clearly taken stock of what consumers want from their netbooks and packed it into a neat package. The design may be a bit plain but it definitely makes a sensible buy if you're on a budget.

Can't miss

Microsoft's Ultimate Steal — University students can get Microsoft's Office Ultimate for only $64 (instead of the regular price of $899) when bought through theultimatesteal.ca/studentdeal.

Microsoft's Office Ultimate, above, is currently on sale for $64 (down from $899). Meanwhile, the Dell Mini 10, left, is thrifty in price (it starts at $415).

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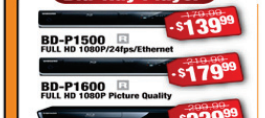

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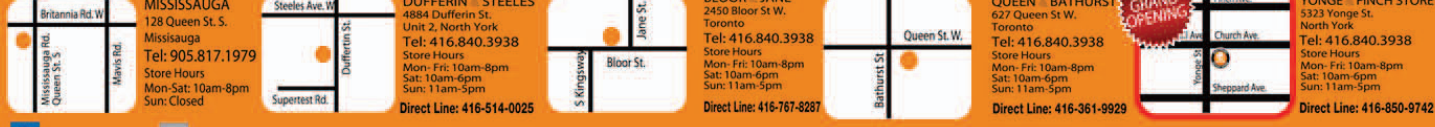

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American Idol's Jonas bonus
Add a Jonas to the mix of celebrity judges on American Idol. A rep for the Jonas Brothers confirms to People magazine that Joe Jonas will serve as a guest judge in Dallas on Monday. **PEOPLE.COM**

Entertainment

Papa Wayne

Rapper Lil Wayne is expecting two little babies this year, but they're not twins. He is expecting one child with girlfriend Nivea and another with actress Lauren London, MTV.com reports. POPEATER.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Billboard Boom

Black Eyed Peas set singles charts record

Will.i.am would love to say "I told you so" to all the people who have bashed the Black Eyed Peas in the past, but he won't — even though the group just made history on the Billboard charts.

"There's a part of me that wants to be cocky, but then I can't be cocky," the 34-year-old Peas leader said in a phone interview from Los Angeles.

"There's a part of me that wants to call out all of my other peers and competitors. I don't want to say no names because I'm not like that, but part of me wants to do that. And would it be wrong if I did that? Yes it would. I'm not like that."

"There's a part of me that wants to be cocky, but then I can't be cocky."
Black Eyed Peas' Will.i.am

This week, the foursome, who have had their share of critics, will have topped Billboard's Hot 100 singles charts for 20 consecutive weeks, the most ever by an act. Boom Boom Pow and the song that dislodged it, I Gotta Feeling, have been at the top of the charts for 12 and eight weeks, respectively.

Though the band has had big hits over the years, Boom Boom Pow was their first No. 1 single. Will.i.am says he's surprised how successful the song became.

"I knew that Boom Boom Pow would be big in the clubs, but I didn't know it would be that potent with the world, outside of the club. So that my accountant's aunt would be like: Black Eyed Peas, I love Boom Boom Pow!" he laughed. "I didn't know it was going to be that. I didn't know that teachers would say I like Boom Boom Pow."

But the success is not pure luck, will.i.am explains. Though he says the band didn't listen to the radio when creating their latest disc, The E.N.D., he says they did heavy research by partying at underground nightclubs and events.

GETTY IMAGES

Black Eyed Peas have topped Billboard's Hits 100 singles charts for 20 consecutive weeks.

They chose Boom Boom Pow as the first single after the response it got when they debuted it at a Grammy party this year. After its success, they used the same idea for their current hit.

"When I picked up I Gotta Feeling we tested in the clubs, looked at people, how they responded to a song they didn't know. We're looking at what's the best summer song out of all the songs, let's go out there and have a party," he explained. So they had a party. And the response was great.

He says the group will use the same strategy for the third single, the groovy Meet Me Halfway.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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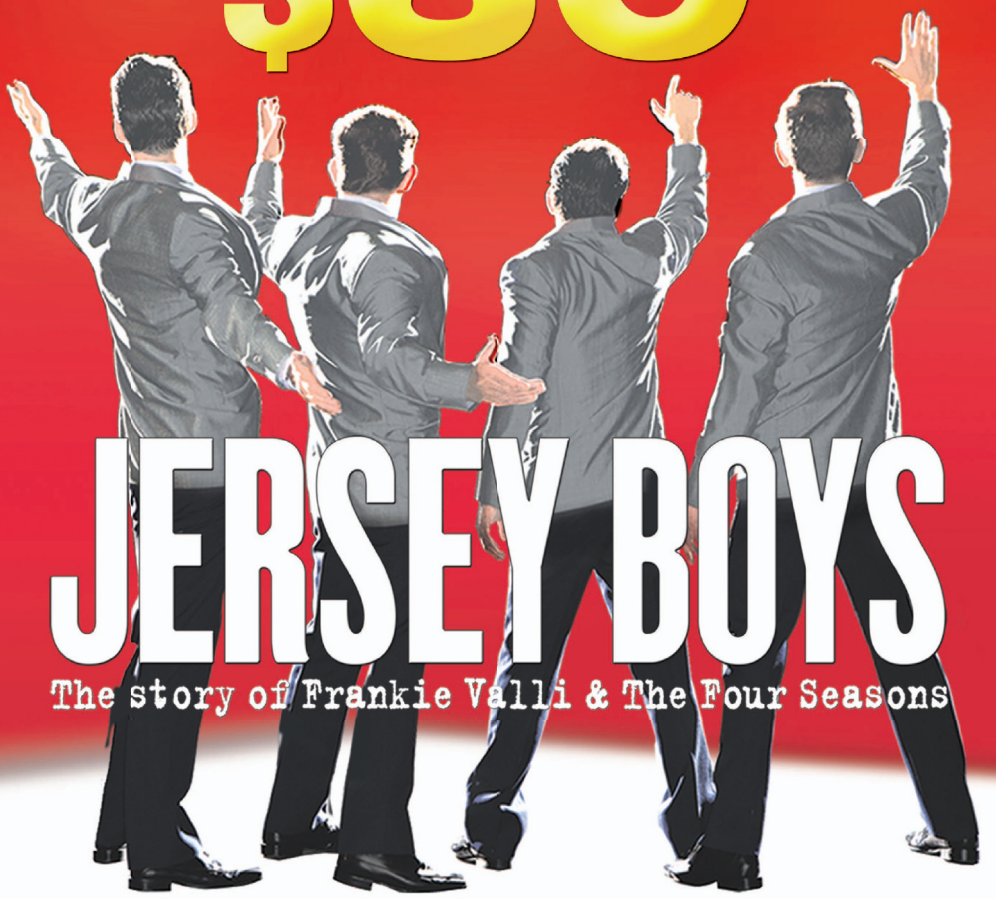

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Photo: Chris Callis

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Wright, Penn calling it quits

Robin Wright and her husband, Sean Penn, are calling it quits on their more than decade-long marriage. People magazine reports that Wright filed for divorce from Penn on Aug. 12 in Marin County, Calif. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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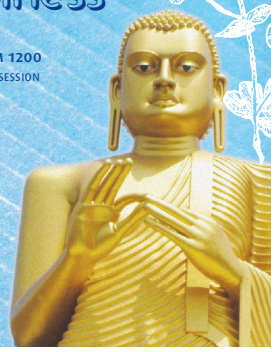

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GETTY IMAGES

Imperial Blaze is the first album in four years from dancehall superstar Sean Paul.

Sean Paul cranks fresh club beats

Sean Paul
Album: Imperial Blaze
Label: VP/Warner
Rating:

SEAN PAUL'S FIRST record in four years was apparently going to introduce us to a new socially conscious artist, but instead we get more sexed-up jams. From Birthday Suit to Lace It, this dancehall superstar has shagging on the brain, but in the end his speedy lyrics don't matter. Paul's music is meant for dancing and at that he succeeds again. The record is loaded with club-friendly beats, infectious choruses and hip-shaking grooves. It's nothing spectacular, but it does the job it set out to do.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Tinariwen
Album: Imidiwan: Companions
Label: Outside
Rating:

TINARIWEN IS AN electric guitar collective born out of the Saharan sands of north Africa and the violent rebellions of the Touareg nomads of Mali. These people literally grew up with Stratocasters strapped to their backs alongside Kalashnikovs. They are guitar masters who have merged their traditional Touareg music with the sounds they found on cherished western cassettes by groups Led Zeppelin and Santana. The result is exotically hypnotic, reminiscent of the stoned cadences of Coltrane, and the improvisational magic of Jerry Garcia. Imidiwan: Companions is Tinariwen's fourth western release. It was recorded in a rented adobe hut in the village of Tessalit. Deadhead nirvana.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

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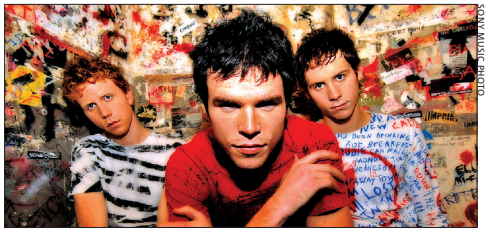
McGraw to headline makeup concert

The organizers of the Big Valley Jamboree have announced Tim McGraw will headline a makeup concert for those who had their weekend cut short by a massive storm. McGraw, who was scheduled to close the show, will perform Sept. 17 at Edmonton's Rexall Place. THE CANADIAN PRESS

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

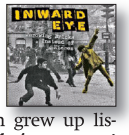


SONY MUSIC PHOTO

Throwing Bricks Instead of Kisses is the new disc from Inward Eye.

Inward Eye

Album: Throwing Bricks Instead of Kisses
Label: RCA/Sony Music
Rating: ●●½



THE LABEL HYPE sheet says brothers Dave, Kyle and Anders Erickson grew up listening to their parents' Rolling Stones, Who, Kinks and Clash records ... until, that is ... they discovered Green Day. Which means two things. No. 1 — the publicist is prone to tired cliches. And No. 2 — we're probably dealing with three upper-middle class suburban Canadian kids trying to be inner-city English punks. Oh, we should also add – the Erickson brothers have dreams of becoming as wealthy as Billy Joe Armstrong. Sorry, guys. It ain't gonna happen, but there are some likable tracks on this debut full-length.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Brendan Benson

Album: My Old, Familiar Friend
Label: ATO/MapleMusic
Rating: ●●●½

ALTHOUGH BRENDAN BENSON has been creating catchy power pop tunes since 1996, it's likely you were first introduced to the Michigan-based singer when he formed The Raconteurs. Thanks to that high profile gig, Benson's latest — an his first since joining the band — has a bigger budget and more buzz. And the attention is well deserved. His fourth record is a solid collection of happy pop songs. It's not too complex, but it's all very catchy. And while it's a bit too glossy, songs like the Franz Ferdinand-ish Feel Like Taking You Home, make this a pleasant listen.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Mute Math

Album: Armistice
Label: Warner
Rating: ●●½

THREE YEARS AGO Mute Math hit the Billboard charts thanks to their anthemic U2-ish self-titled debut. Today, though, the group is an experimental rock outfit that prefers complex vocal melodies to soaring hooks and strings, synths and spacey sounds to their more straight forward pop. You have to commend the band for changing gears, but it's tough to follow at times. The more mid-tempo tunes, like Pins and Needles and Goodbye recall the last disc, so there's still something for original fans.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Rich Hope

Album: Rich Hope is Gonna Whip It on Ya
Label: Sandbag/Fontana North
Rating: ●●●½

RICH HOPE NEEDS only an electric guitar, harmonica, a few overdubs and a solid drummer by the name of Adrian "the Cleethorpes Crasher" Mack to remind us how good truly authentic R&B-tinged rock 'n' roll can be. This is raw, ragged and reeking of leaky oil pans. Hope wears his influences on his sleeve — Son House, Bo Diddley, '60s R&B singer Don Gardner and guitarist Gordie Johnson. This album has the taste of Jack Daniels and the feel of the Burnaby, B.C., basement it was recorded in.

Graham Rockingham /for Metro Canada

Alberta man sought in death of model

PROBE Police in California are looking for a Calgary man they say was the last person seen with a former Los Angeles swimsuit model whose body was found stuffed in a suitcase and thrown in a trash bin.

The victim has been identified as Jasmine Fiore and police said she had been strangled.

Lieut. Gary Worrall said police want to speak with Ryan Alexander Jenkins who reported her missing Saturday night. Jenkins and Fiore were married at one time although Fiore's mother said the marriage had been annulled.

"We attempted to contact Mr. Jenkins to get more information and we've been unable to get in touch with him," Worrall told The Canadian Press from Buena Park, Calif.

The website TMZ.com said Jenkins was among the final contestants on the reality TV show Megan Wants a Millionaire, which airs on VH1.

Worrall said Jenkins was last seen with Fiore Friday evening in San Diego, Calif.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Coming soon to a magazine stand near you ...

The award-winning Canadian general-interest magazine Walrus is now making movie-style, online trailers to promote its cover stories. The first one, posted this week on the magazine's website, is a 90-second trailer about its September 2009 cover story. THE CANADIAN PRESS

United vs. Carroll returns

Halifax musician Dave Carroll's online fight with United Airlines has entered Round 2 with another YouTube video.

Carroll turned to the Internet after having his $3,500 custom-made guitar broken during a flight with United and getting no recourse from the airline.

He wrote a song about it, called United Breaks Guitars, and the accompanying video went viral online, and has since been viewed almost five million times on YouTube.

Carroll also got calls from media outlets around the world to be featured on the likes of CNN and CBS.

He promised the song was actually just part one of a trilogy about his broken guitar and the second part was posted on Monday.

Carroll says the latest video was a much bigger production, involving nearly 100 extras and was filmed in high definition. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Book of Negroes ready for film

ADAPTATION Lawrence Hill's award-winning novel The Book of Negroes is on its way to the big screen.

Conquering Lion Pictures say they have acquired the film rights to the book, about an 11-year-old girl who is abducted from her village in West Africa and made to be a slave in North Carolina. She is able to escape to Nova Scotia after the Revolutionary War but still finds slavery, segregation and abuse in Canada.

The novel is inspired by the real Book of Negroes, an 18th-century document that recorded the names of black people who fled the United States for Nova Scotia. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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EYE WEEKLY

Daddy Knoxville
Johnny Knoxville has confirmed on his blog that he and girlfriend Naomi Nelson are expecting. USMAGAZINE.COM

All-star back to school

Obama, Clarkson to appear in TV special for education

President Barack Obama will appear in a back-to-school television special with singer Kelly Clarkson and basketball star LeBron James next month.

Obama is appearing in a 30-minute documentary that will air at 8 p.m. Sept. 8 on BET, MTV, VH1, CMT, Comedy Central, Spike TV and Nickelodeon, all of them Viacom networks.

In the program, the president says education is the key to people living out their dreams.

"So as this new school year begins, I urge you to set goals for your own education: to study hard and get involved in your school, to try new things and find something you're passionate about,'' Obama says, according to a release issued yesterday.

"And that's how our nation will get ahead — by ensuring that every American gets a world-class education, from preschool to college to a career,'' Obama said.

The program marks the kickoff of an education initiative by the Bill&Melinda Gates Foundation and Viacom Inc. Called Get Schooled, the five-year campaign is aimed at improving dismal high school and college completion rates in the U.S.

In the special, Obama, Clarkson and James all are shown alongside behind-the-scenes colleagues; Obama's is speechwriter Sarah Hurwitz, who talks about her time in school and current job at the White House. Also featured are Clarkson's music director, Jason Halbert, and James' marketer, Latesha Williams.

Gates official Allan Golston, president of the foundation's U.S. Program, noted Obama has made education a top priority and that schools got unprecedented money from the economic stimulus law earlier this year.

"Education is the key to opportunity and economic progress, for our young people and our nation,'' Golston said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Barack Obama and Kelly Clarkson will urge kids to "study hard" in an upcoming TV documentary.

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
8/20/09 primetime	265	353	2 TVO	Hydraulics (N)		The View From Here		Little Dorrit (Part 3 of 8)		Private Life of a Masterpiece		View From Hr
	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Big Brother 11 (Live)		The Office	The Office	House		News
	215	343	4 OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	Omni News: Italian Edition (N)		Vivere Il	Omni News:	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy!	Doc Zone (HDTV) (DVS)		Spies Who Came		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Who Wants to Be a Millionaire		30 Rock	30 Rock	Law & Order: UK (N)		News
	212	313	8 CTV	etalk	Hollywood	CSI: NY		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		The Listener (N) (DVS)		News
	218	345	11 E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	How I Met	'Til Death	True Hollywood Story		The Beast		News/Eleven
	137	763	13 TFO	Panorama été	Météo	Rebut global	Villages	*Merci pour le chocolat* ★★★ (2000, Suspense)				Météo
	-	-	14 -	Raymond	According-Jim	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15 SUN	Stargate SG-1		Supernatural (HDTV)		Supernatural (HDTV)		To Serve and Protect		Becker
	-	387	16 CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Big Brother 11 (Live)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(10:01) The Mentalist		News 4 at 11
	-	385	17 NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	30 Rock	Parks-Recreat	The Office	30 Rock	Law & Order		News
	-	386	18 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire		Grey's Anatomy		(10:02) Private Practice		News
	219	346	20 ACH-B	The Road to Avonlea		Samantha Who	Samantha Who	Grey's Anatomy		(10:02) Private Practice		A News
	-	-	28 FOX	Judge Judy	Two/Half Men	NFL Preseason Football Philadelphia Eagles at Indianapolis Colts. (HDTV) (Live)						The Simpsons
	-	388	61 PBS	News-Lehrer	My Hero	Doc Martin		Colour of War: Adolf Hitler		MI-5		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330 WPX	MLB Baseball Atlanta Braves at New York Mets. From Citi Field in Flushing, N.Y.						PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331 SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Big Brother 11 (Live)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(10:01) The Mentalist		Punk'd
	298	653	332 TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Supernatural
news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News	Marketplace	The Hour		CBC News: The National		The Nature of Things		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79 CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports (N)		The Oprah Effect		As Seen on TV		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22 net	MLB Baseball Boston Red Sox at Toronto Blue Jays. From Rogers Centre in Toronto.						Sportsnet Connected		Sportsnet Con.
	400	400	30 TSN	Interruption	WTA Tennis Rogers Cup -- Day Four. (HDTV) From Toronto. (Live)					SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
	411	457	58 OLN	Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter
	417	406	81 SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out (HDTV) (N)		Jacked! (N)	Jacked! (N)	Wrecked (N)	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride
family	551	542	25 YTV	Drake & Josh	Family Biz	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	In Real Life		Falcon Beach "Vigil"		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45 TEL	Jimmy Two	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	*Appleseed* ★★ (2004, Fantasy) Ai Kobayashi.			
	556	540	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27 W	Style by Jury	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Divine Design	Love It-List It	House
	570	580	29 MM	One Tree Hill "Resolve"		Degrassi: TNG	Instant Star	America's Best Dance Crew		On Set	Degrassi: TNG	Video on Trial
	615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		Crime 360
	700	800	35 TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	*Un Dottore Quasi Perfetto* (2007) Sonia Aquino.				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36 MMM	The Daily Fix		Ranked!		mmtop10.ca		Entourage	Gene Simmons	The Daily Fix
	575	583	38 CMT	Karaoke Star "Kelowna" (N)		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Karaoke Star
	616	521	39 SHO	The Outer Limits		Love-Death	Love-Death	*The Perfect Child* (2007, Drama) Rebecca Budig.				House
	620	523	40 BVO	Storytellers	Camera	Opera Stories		*Comeback Season* ★★ (2006, Comedy-Drama) Ray Liotta.				Law & Order
	601	562	41 SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	Last 10	Last 10	Last 10	10 Pounds	Bulging Brides	Bulging Brides	ET Canada
	522	506	43 HIS	NCIS "Chimera"		Ancient Discoveries		Unlocking the Past		NCIS "Chimera"		Turning Points
	625	548	44 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Now	Comedy Now	Daily Show
	600	564	46 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Handyman Superstar		Disaster DIY	Big Amazing	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47 TBS	Family Guy	Family Guy	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	*Clear and Present Danger* ★★★ (1994)		
	576	582	49 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		*ATL* ★★ (2006, Comedy-Drama) Tip "T.I." Harris, Lauren London.					The Game	W. Williams
	627	528	50 SPC	The Listener (N) (DVS)		Star Trek: Voyager		*Jason X* ★ (2002, Horror) Lexa Doig, Lisa Ryder.				Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52 MTV	Topshop NYC	After	MTV News	Cribs	True Life		Nitro Circus	Fantasy Fact.	MTV Live
	618	524	54 TROP	Traders		Inside Hollywood		Stunt Stars "The 4400"		Family Guy	Family Guy	Family Guy
	603	561	56 FOOD	Chef at Home	Crash-Kitchen	Restaurant Makeover		Jamie's Kitchen		Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Boys Weekend
	261	394	60 V	Murder, She Wrote		Wait for God	'Allo, 'Allo!	*Conspiracy of Silence* ★★ (1991, Docudrama), Ian Tracey				Poltergeist
	621	527	63 STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	Relative Madness		Tonight Show-Conan O'Brien		TMZ
	553	546	65 TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Zigby	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101 TVA	Dépenses xtr	Marché	Dr. House "Tout seul" (SC)		Mollie "Ex-files" (HDTV) (SC)		TVA 22 heures	Sucré-salé	*Le Brouillard*
	126	730	102 RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI économie	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249 VIVA	Judging Amy		Most Haunted		The Closer "Flashpoint"		Passion	Homicide File	Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301 M1	(6:30) *Enchanted* (2007, Fantasy)			Nurse Jackie	*RocknRolla* ★★ (2008, Crime Drama) Gerard Butler.				Penn & Teller
	305	612	306 PIX	(6:45) *Arizona* ★★★ (1940, Western) Jean Arthur.				*Air Force One* ★★★ (1997, Suspense) Harrison Ford.				*Beefcake*

critics'corner

Jason X

Begone! A pox on you! Anything to make it go away! And that includes not only the character but any movie series that goes beyond three films and isn't about Harry Potter. Kane Hodder stars as the masked murderer of "Friday the 13th" fame who is now living aboard a spaceship in the 25th century. Naturally, that ship is populated with too-stupid-to-live young people. So they don't. Live, that is. 9 PM on SPC

Karaoke Star

On "American Idol," Simon Cowell's "That performance sounded like karaoke" isn't a compliment. This competition, however, is all about singing karaoke. Contestants chosen in auditions across Canada show off their singing skills, and viewer votes pick one finalist from each audition city to compete on the season finale. Those who can't audition in person can do so online for a chance to become a Karaoke Cyber-Star and take part in the finale. 7 PM on CMT

Britney Spears

'President' Brit promises pies for all

TV APPEARANCE What would a President Spears administration be like? Apparently, very tasty.

Britney Spears appeared on David Letterman's Late Show on Tuesday to deliver a Top Ten list of ways the country would be different if she were president. "Free pie for everybody,'' Spears declared.

For No. 10 on the list, Spears said she'd be "the first president to wear eye shadow since Nixon.''

The 27-year-old pop star appeared eager to show off her buff new body. She delivered the list in a bikini.

Spears also joked that her situation room would be a cabana at the Palms Casino in Las Vegas, and she'd challenge the U.S. to put a nightclub on the moon within a decade.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pregnancy's hard for everyone, even David
Actor David Boreanaz has been having a rough go since his wife Jaime Bergman became pregnant in March: "Jaime's pregnant, we're doing construction at the house, and I'm just pulling my hair out," he told People. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Hey Twilight fans: Rob is still single

THE LINE STARTS TO THE LEFT Good news, Robert Pattinson fans: He's not dating anyone, people.com reports.

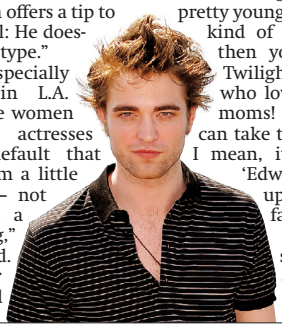
At least that's what the Twilight star, who only days ago was seen getting cozy with co-star Kristen Stewart, wants Britain's Daily Mirror to believe. "I don't have a girlfriend," claimed the actor. "I don't know why."

Pattinson, 23, appears surprised at this turn of events. "You always think you're going to get more girls after you've made a movie and it never happens," he insisted.

"You sit there and you're like, 'I'm a big movie star and I want to go out with some models,' but I don't know why that doesn't happen."

Pattinson offers a tip to the hopeful: He doesn't "have a type."

"It's especially different in L.A. Most of the women there are actresses and by default that makes them a little bit nuts — not that that's a bad thing," he observed. "Whenever I get asked who my favourite celebrity crush is, I have no idea."



When it comes to the attention he does manage to receive, Pattinson said, "Most of the girls are all pretty young, so it's just kind of funny. But then you get the Twilight Moms who love you like moms! And you can take that too far. I mean, it could be 'Edward breaks up Twilight family.'"

The sex-symbol image surprises him, people.com adds. Originally he aimed to become a politician, though he did model, despite lacking athleticism.

"I always looked like a girl up until a few years ago, and because I never did any sports or anything I was always kind of gangly," he said. "I was never really a good model."

In fact, he concedes, "I was terrible at it. I wasn't skinny enough to be a little waif and I didn't want to work out to be a beefy guy, so I was always stuck between two things and so I never got any jobs."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Spike throwing MJ party

IN TRIBUTE Spike Lee is planning a big party for Michael Jackson on the late singer's 51st birthday, and everyone's invited. The director felt it important to memorialize Jackson, he explained to the Washington Post.

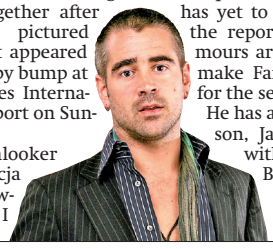
"We're of the same era," Lee said. "I wanted my afro to be perfectly round like Michael's." The celebration, free and open to the public, will take place Aug. 29 in Brooklyn's Fort Greene Park. "It's going to just be how we do it, Brooklyn-style, I'll leave it at that," Lee said. "It's going to be a joyous, festive, celebratory party."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Baby No. 2 for Colin?

FATHER AGAIN Colin Farrell could be expecting a baby with his girlfriend Alicja Bachleda, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actor and the Polish model — who began dating earlier this year — are believed to be starting a family together after she was pictured with what appeared to be a baby bump at Los Angeles International Airport on Sunday.



An onlooker said: "Alicja was glowing. I couldn't help but notice her rounded stomach, which was only enhanced by a clingy black top. She was resting her hand protectively on her tummy as they made their way through the airport."

A rep for the 33-year-old has yet to comment on the reports. If the rumours are true, it will make Farrell a father for the second time.

He has a five-year-old son, James Padraig, with model Kim Bordenave.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Alicia, the naked gardener

ONE WITH NATURE Alicia Silverstone swears by gardening in the buff. Her habit of taking off all her clothes "probably started when I was doing my garden the first time," the actress told Health magazine.

"I'd be out there, and it would be scorching hot, so I would take off all of my clothes and garden. And then I would jump in the pool and swim — and I always get in the pool naked."

So where did she pick up the idea to ditch her clothes? "I used to spend a lot of time with Woody Harrelson," Silverstone explained. "And he's not afraid to get naked."

GETTY IMAGES

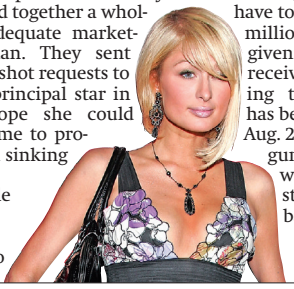
METRO WORLD NEWS

Paris not reason for film flop: Judge

LEGAL WIN A court has ruled Paris Hilton was not at fault for her film flopping, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The socialite was sued by Worldwide Entertainment Group for allegedly breaching her contractual commitments for movie National Lampoon's Pledge This!, but a Miami judge has ruled she did her best to promote it, stating the movie was "hardly destined for critical acclaim."

Judge Federico Moreno said: "The movie flopped because the film's inexperienced producers hastily cobbled together a wholly inadequate marketing plan. They sent scattershot requests to their principal star in the hope she could find time to promote a sinking ship."



While Hilton won't have to pay the $8.3 million US in damages the producers were asking for, she may have to return the $1-million fee she was given for the film. A receiver representing the producers has been given until Aug. 26 to submit arguments as to why the blonde star should pay back the sum.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Reunion with Reggie in works?

CHANGE OF HEART Kim Kardashian and Reggie Bush might not be over just yet, us-magazine.com reports.

Three weeks after their split, the reality TV star was spotted with her ex in New Orleans, a source says.

She was in Louisiana for a charity fashion show on Saturday. "He picked her up from the charity event," the source added.

Kardashian, 28, began dating Bush, 24, the running back for the New Orleans Saints, in April 2007. Although her split with the football player was amicable, her siblings have said they want to see a reunion.

"My mom just said she's going to training camp and dragging him back!" said sister Kourtney. "We all love Reggie. How cute would the babies be?"

When asked if they will get back together, Kardashian said, "I hope so."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Mimi delays album release

CAREER MOVE? With her new album's first single not performing so well, and rival Whitney Houston putting out a new record, Mariah Carey has pushed back the release of her new album, Memoirs of an Imperfect Angel, to after the deadline for Grammy consideration — though pals are trying to spin it in her favour.

"Mariah's been shafted so many times before that it's like a big 'kiss my butt' to the Grammy folks," a source told Gatecrasher. "She doesn't need the awards, because her career is already so successful." Carey has received five trophies and 21 nominations.

METRO WORLD NEWS

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Today Thundershowers 26°/ 20° 40%
Friday Thundershowers 25° / 18° 40%
Saturday Variable 24°/ 17°
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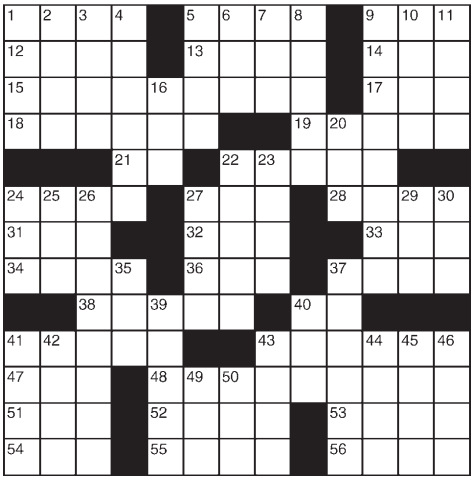


Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	9	5	6			1		
	3			4		2		
	6		3		7			
			8				4	
1			5		4			2
	7				6			
			9		1		2	
		6		3			8	
		2			5	7	3	

ACROSS

1 Lady of the Haus
5 Channel marker
9 To the — degree
12 Deserve
13 Nabisco product
14 Playwright Levin
15 Victoria Beckham, e.g.
17 Snip
18 Plays for time
19 Strike zone's lower boundary
21 Exist
22 Sits for the paparazzi
24 Joker, e.g.
27 Scepter topper
28 Horse's halter?
31 Kyoto cummerbund
32 Pirouette pivot
33 Resistance measure
34 Wear a rut in the rug
36 Wall climber
37 What 28-Across means
38 Obliterate
40 Tagged player
41 Sunrises
43 With hands on hips
47 — Baba
48 Trite
51 Director Howard
52 Affluent
53 Gunk
54 Ball-bearing item
55 Curved molding

DOWN

56 His and
1 Parker who played Daniel Boone
2 Engrossed
3 Met melody
4 Nude
5 Marshy areas
6 Swiss canton
7 "— the fields we go"
8 Whites' counterparts
9 Basketball "bravo"
10 Verifiable
11 Milliner's wares
16 Shade source
20 Just out
22 Verify
23 Do as you're told
24 Officer
25 "The — Daba Honeymoon"
26 Sake
27 Elevator name
29 "Looky here!"
30 Pump up the volume
35 Sea eagle
37 Sew
39 Jetsons' dog
40 Eisenhower
41 Pub missile
42 Lotion additive
43 Rue the run
44 Oliver's request
45 Astigmatism factor
46 Probability
49 False hood?
50 Capades venue

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

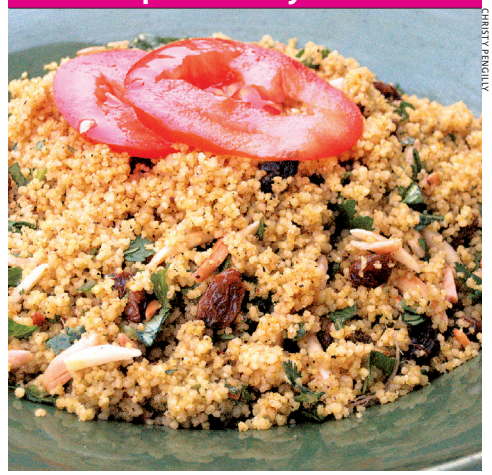
P	O	D	S		S	O	W		I	T	E	M		
A	R	E	A		P	H	I		M	E	S	A		
T	E	A	S	P	O	O	N		B	A	S	S		
H	O	N	S	H	U		G	A	R	R	E	T		
			Y	E	S		S	P	U	D				
H	A	T		W	A	D		E	E	R	I	E		
I	D	E	A		L	O	U		S	O	R	T		
P	S	A	L	M		E	N	D		P	E	A		
		C	L	A	D		H	O	G					
A	D	H	E	R	E		E	R	A	S	E	R		
B	R	I	G		T	E	A	M	M	A	T	E		
L	A	N	E		E	R	R		I	N	N	S		
E	G	G	S		R	E	D		N	E	A	T		

8	7	9	6	1	2	5	4	3
3	2	6	5	8	4	7	9	1
4	1	5	9	3	7	8	6	2
7	4	3	8	9	6	2	1	5
6	9	1	3	2	5	4	7	8
5	8	2	7	4	1	9	3	6
9	6	8	2	7	3	1	5	4
2	3	4	1	5	9	6	8	7
1	5	7	4	6	8	3	2	9

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day



CHRISTY PENGILLY

Quick Curried Couscous

Submitted by Patricia Smith, Toronto

INGREDIENTS:

1 1/2 cups couscous
3 cups chicken stock OR water
1 tablespoon curry powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon ground black pepper
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1/2 cup raisins
1 bunch parsley OR cilantro, chopped
1/2 cup slivered almonds

METHOD:

Pour couscous into a bowl. Lightly toast almonds in a dry pan. Mix chicken stock, curry powder, salt, pepper and raisins in a saucepan and bring to a boil; remove from heat. Pour the boiling liquid over the couscous. Seal top of the bowl with plastic wrap and allow to sit for 10 minutes. Fluff couscous with a fork and toss with olive oil. Top with cilantro and almonds.

SERVES 6
PREP TIME: 5 MINUTES
COOK TIME: 15 MINUTES

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Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You will recover quickly from the effects of yesterday's Mars-Uranus aspect and by the end of the day you'll be back to your best.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Family matters must come first. No matter how pressed you may be on the work front you must make time for your nearest and dearest.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You have a lot to say for yourself and today's new moon in the communications area of your chart will encourage you to be even more outspoken.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Others will offer to do things for you today but if you are smart you will insist on doing them for yourself.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
Everything will fall into place over the next few days, so stop worrying about whether or not you are doing the right thing.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
This is a frustrating time for you but don't despair because an upturn in your fortunes will be evident in a matter of days.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
The world needs people who are not afraid to speak up and that's exactly what you will be doing today.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
You will be in the public eye today. You have something important to do on the work front, something only you have the guts to attempt.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Cosmic activity in your fellow Fire sign of Leo means you feel a lot more confident about your beliefs. Don't be afraid to express your opinions.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
You may be one of the more ambitious and worldly signs of the zodiac but today you need to spend time by yourself.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Partnerships and relationships are of extra importance at the moment and if you have fallen out with someone close, now is the time to approach them.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Think twice before changing tried and trusted methods to do with your health. Avoid fashionable cures.

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Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

1. A solitary rifle or pistol (1)
2. Embraces "What's up, Doc?" Bunny (1)
3. Acquainted with Dakota tribesmen (1)
4. In favor of a shop or boutique (1)
5. Swimmer/actress Williams's court clowns (2)
6. (With 7) Slight change in the form of ...
7. ... a systematic ordering of written laws (5)

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ANSWERS
1. ONE GUN 2. HUGS BUGS 3. KNEW SIOUX 4. FOR STORE 5. ESTHERS JESTERS 6. COPIFICATION 7. MODIFICATION

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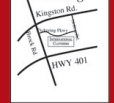
Ancaster — Meadowlands Power Centre

Ajax — Durham Regional Centre

Markham — First Markham Place

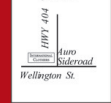
Oakville — Burloak Power Centre

Pickering — Shops of Pickering



Oshawa — Oshawa South Centre

Aurora — Aurora Power Centre



* SOME EXCEPTIONS • SELECTION VARIES BY STORE • SOME ITEMS NOT EXACTLY AS ILLUSTRATED • WHILE SUPPLIES LAST • SEE STORE FOR DETAILS

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Delivery and destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ◊At purchase financing available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services on 2009 Elantra/2009 Elantra Touring/2009 Accent/2009 Santa Fe/2010 Sonata models with a finance rate of 0%/0%/0%/0% for 36/36/48/48 month owners surveyed in February-May 2009. Your experiences may vary. Visit jdpower.com. †Fuel economy comparison based on combined fuel consumption rating for the 2010 Sonata GL auto (8.0ZL/100km) and 2009 EnerGuide combined fuel consumption ratings for the full size vehicle class. Fuel Consumption for 2010 Sonata GL automatic (HWY 6.2L/100km, 46 mpg; CITY 9.5L/100km, 30 mpg) is based on manufacturer testing. 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